

Legislators pass the plate for AIDS
License plates, brainchild of local gay man, only need Governor Wilson's okay.
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What's hung and new on Castro Street these days? See for yourself.
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The Izzard of odd
Robin Williams's favorite British comic comes to SF.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Gay Games get going

by Jim Provenzano

Since Gay Games V began in Amsterdam Saturday, August 1, the scandals have read like elements of a grand opera in formation. The managing director himself, Marc Janssens, is the center of the largest scandal — scandals, actually. Janssens (suddenly absent from public meetings, and said to be in Switzerland) stands accused of secretly negotiating four million gilders (or about \$2 million) in contracts for his own profit, and the Dutch media broke a story implicating him in a tax evasion scheme the day the Gay Games opened.

Despite the scandals, the visitors seem to be having a grand time — at least when they're not confused by the circular maze of foot-assaulting cobblestone streets and "Didn't we just pass that one?" canals, or disgruntled at having to pay half

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All photos by Darren / Photopress

Gay clubs skirmish over Teng's alleged comment about Ammiano

by Cynthia Laird

The campaign season is heating up like the weather. Two San Francisco gay Democratic clubs have come out on opposite sides over an incident involving Supervisor Mabel Teng and an alleged statement she made, referring to fellow board member Tom Ammiano as "that homosexual supervisor," when she was interviewed about the city budget on a Chinese radio station last Wednesday, July 28.

One of the clubs is demanding Teng remove herself from sponsoring the renaming of an alley after a prominent lesbian, while the other club is saying the incident is being blown out of proportion. A third group, the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) has entered the fray and announced plans to investigate the allegations, although the group was critical of the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club in a written statement issued Monday, August 3.

Teng and Ammiano are believed by many to be in

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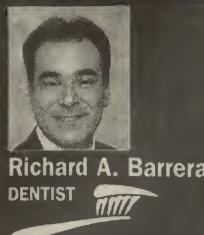
Supervisors Mabel Teng and Tom Ammiano (left to right, ironically).

Counterclockwise from left: Festivities commence with a parade through the Amsterdam canals; greetings from the official mascot; the crowd cheering at the Opening Ceremonies; and one of the athletes showing their stuff.

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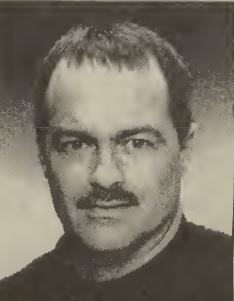
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Men arrested in Bakersfield park can sue, judge rules

by Timothy Rodrigues

U.S. District Court Judge Oliver Wanger ruled Monday, August 3 that a class action lawsuit can go forward against the city of Bakersfield, California, over its practice of targeting gay and bisexual men looking to meet other men for sex.

Geoff Kors, civil rights attorney with the Law Offices of Paul Wotman, filed the suit on behalf of Robert Fosse, a former minister who lost his job and was divorced after being arrested twice (although charges were later dismissed), and "all men who have or will be arrested."

The complaint names the city of Bakersfield, the police department, and the chief of police, and alleges that they had violated the men's constitutional rights by "arbitrarily, unlawfully, and maliciously" arresting them without probable cause.

Bakersfield Police Department decoy officers in the park arrested men who asked if they wanted to



Geoff Kors

join them at locations out of the park for sex, citing them under California penal code 647(a) — soliciting a lewd act in public.

"Based on the facts, it became apparent that the practice of targeting parks where men go to meet other men was designed to harass these men and resulted in arrests and convictions of individuals who did not commit a crime," Kors told the B.A.R. He

explained that men were being arrested simply for asking another man in public to have consensual sex in a private place (in the case of Fosse, it was a motel or his home), and cautioned that the same prohibition could theoretically be applied to other public places such as a supermarket.

In a transcript from an April 6 hearing on the matter, Janice Scanlan, deputy city attorney for Bakersfield, said: "In fact, what the police would do is simply go to the park, try to find men who would in any way solicit them, and then arrest them, knowing that that wasn't a crime."

Deputy City Attorney Andrew Thompson said through an assistant that it was very early in the case and he could not comment on the judge's ruling.

The finding is similar to a ruling in a Modesto case brought by Bruce Nickerson and reported in the June 25 issue of the Bay Area Reporter.

The formal ruling will be issued by Wanger in the next two weeks. ▼

Puckett gets a break?

by Ed Walsh

The question of whether Josh Puckett will take a plea bargain is still up in the air, but one of Vitaly "Steve" Poliakov's closest friends says he is outraged over the deal he says will allow a killer to get away with murder.

Puckett, the 18-year-old former XY magazine cover model, confessed to beating Poliakov to death with a Martinelli's cider bottle last Labor Day weekend at a house in Orinda, and is also charged with burglarizing a house nearby. He has now been offered a plea bargain on the homicide and burglary charges that would require him to serve less time than he could get if convicted of manslaughter alone.

Dave Cannon considered Poliakov his best friend. He calls the plea bargain offer "a slap on the hand to Josh." Cannon told the Bay Area Reporter, "I think this latest offer is ridiculous. I think the prosecution is really backing down here and I think they have a strong case they should continue with." Cannon plans to write a letter of protest to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, which is handling the case.

Puckett's first trial ended in a mistrial in June. Several jurors seemed to be influenced by Puckett's appearance, and said they found it hard to believe he could be capable of murder. Cannon said, "That's probably the trap that Steve fell into," and called Puckett "a wolf in sheep's clothing."

Puckett has maintained he's heterosexual and didn't intend to kill Poliakov, but was acting in self-defense to prevent a sexual assault. In a telephone interview with this reporter in October, Puckett apologized to Poliakov's friends and family, while acknowledging, "There's no way you



Dave Cannon (left) with best friend Vitaly "Steve" Poliakov.

can ever express enough remorse."

He said at the time, "If someone took the life of a loved one close to me, I don't believe there is anything anybody could say to express enough remorse to me, to make everything all right because everything will never be all right, that person is gone."

Puckett says he was passed out on alcohol and drugs when he woke up to find Poliakov unbuttoning his pants. "He basically tried to hold me down," Puckett said. "I don't think it would have been much of a problem if I had not been on the drugs I was on." Puckett said he had to become increasingly aggressive to fend off what he calls Poliakov's repeated and more aggressive advances.

The executive director of Community United Against Violence, Lester Olmstead-Rose, called the killing a "heinous" and "manipulative act." Olmstead-Rose told the B.A.R. he doesn't want to second-guess the prosecution because he understands they have a "complicated and difficult" case, but he said, "It certainly seems like a perfect case for a very, very serious and aggressive prosecution. It's really unfortunate if the prosecution does not feel that they can do that."

Although Puckett's first trial ended before the defense had an opportunity to present any of its case, Olmstead-Rose said he was concerned that Puckett's lawyer would attempt some sort of a so-called "gay-panic" defense, that gay sex was so alien to Puckett that he felt he reacted in a panic to prevent what he perceived as a repugnant act. "It's especially galling that the homosexual panic defense would be used in a case where the suspect is so clearly involved with, friendly with, and integrated with the gay community," he said.

The terms of Puckett's latest plea bargain offer have not been made public but he already turned down a 15-year sentence in exchange for pleas on both the burglary and homicide charges. Prosecutors came back with a counter-offer that was apparently more agreeable to the defense. Puckett's attorney, Deputy Public Defender Mark Liss, left for vacation last week without giving a response to the latest plea bargain offer. He's expected to give Puckett's answer to the deal shortly after his return on August 20.

If Puckett rejects the plea bargain, prosecutors will have to decide whether to offer him a better deal or take him to trial again. ▼

Grapes of wrath, starting Friday SF gays win right to sue Napa vintner

by Timothy Rodrigues

Three gay men from San Francisco face felony charges that their lawyer calls politically motivated, after they visited Napa County for a wine tasting weekend and wound up in a brief scuffle with a winery owner.

On June 6, a group of six gay men journeyed north to visit several wineries with one of the men's sister. After a picnic lunch at one winery, the group decided to make one more stop on the way back to San Francisco at the Whitehall Lane Winery. Once there, owner Thomas Leonardini met them at the door and refused to allow them entry to the tasting room.

A brief scuffle ensued, involving the owner and at least one member of the group, Aaron Anderson. According to the visitors, two other members of the group were involved in pulling Leonardini off Anderson; Leonardini alleges the two were involved in the scuffle.

The visiting group charged in statements to a sheriff's deputy that the scuffle was initiated by homophobic epithets from Leonardini, which then led to his striking Anderson. Leonardini charged in a written statement that he refused entry to the group because they appeared intoxicated.

Anderson and Marc Deising, co-defendant and Anderson's lover, claim in a legal complaint that Leonardini was "up in Deising's face" and said, "Why don't you just take your fag friends and leave." Anderson admits in the complaint that he argued with Leonardini about his refusal to serve gays, and said after additional verbal exchanges, "Are you going to hit me? Because if you do I'll see you." Anderson also acknowledged in the sheriff's department report that Leonardini's comments "made him so angry he walked up and confronted" him. Leonardini then allegedly hit Anderson, which led to the scuffle.

Leonardini said, in a voice mail message to the *Bay Area Reporter*, "Unfortunately I cannot specifically comment on the case at this time; however, I can say that the allegations in the motion to re-cuse are totally false."



Aaron Anderson (L) and Marc Deising

Misdemeanor to felony

After the group left the winery, officers from the Napa County Sheriff's Department stopped the car, inquired about the incident, and then handcuffed and booked Anderson and another member of the party, Luke Boe, on misdemeanor assault charges.

The Napa County District Attorney's office rebooked Anderson on felony charges when he appeared for a hearing on the charges at a later date. The DA's office also brought similar charges against Deising, who accompanied Anderson to the hearing.

Deising was reportedly not involved in the altercation.

The owner was not charged.

Leonardini charged that the visitors were intoxicated and using language that he, his daughter, and wife found offensive, and he admitted in a written statement, "Based on their homosexual talk, I said, 'get the hell out of her [sic] you faggots.'" This comment was made before the altercation occurred. He also admitted in a statement to a sheriff's deputy, "that while being confronted by these subjects, who

were very belligerent, he shoved one of them."

Statements by several members of the visiting party allege that the owner began using homophobic comments from the very start and suggested that "your kind are not welcome here." Ken Frucht, attorney for Anderson, said, "he [Leonardini] saw these guys walking arm in arm," and refused to serve them.

Deising, the designated driver, consented to a request from a highway patrol officer on the scene, based on "objective signs of intoxication," to submit to a blood alcohol test. It was .05, below California's legal intoxication standard of .08. The sheriff's report also mentions that Anderson "also displayed signs of intoxication," but a blood alcohol test was not conducted.

DA Biased?

In a complaint filed in Napa County Municipal Court, Anderson and Deising (defendants in the case because they were charged) have asked that the Napa County District Attorney's office

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Planning council co-chair apologizes to Latinos for comment

by Cynthia Laird

Will Carter, co-chair of the city's HIV Health Services Planning Council, issued a public apology to the Latino/a community Monday for saying "Fuck you" in the heat of a lively discussion last Wednesday, July 29. The comment was made at a meeting called to discuss the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's (SFAF) decision to eliminate its *Vida y Movimiento* program for HIV-positive Latinos.

The community forum was attended by mostly Latino consumers and service providers. Carter said he made the utterance after he was kissed at by a member of ACT UP/San Francisco, and said the incident is being played up in "certain circles as a major multicultural incident in which I am being portrayed as anti-Latino."

He added, "Nothing could be further from the truth."

"No matter how misconstrued my remarks may have been, or how unintended the consequences, I know that feelings have been hurt, and for that, I am truly sorry," Carter said. "I hope that I have not damaged the relationship between our communities, for that was the furthest thing from my mind when I came to the Brava Theater."

Carter said he was speaking at the forum when he became angered by the kiss; he pointed out that ACT UP/San Francisco, which is not affiliated with ACT UP/Golden Gate, has a long history of disrupting meetings, including the infamous kitty-litter tossing at SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen in 1996.

According to SFAF executives, the decision to eliminate the *Vida* program was made after the foundation failed to receive federal Ryan White CARE Act funds for case management.

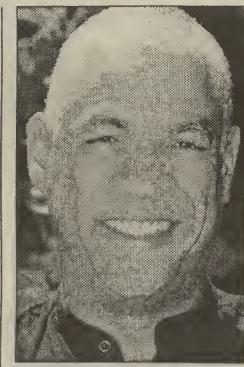
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Will Carter

gram started in 1991 and served at least 150 HIV-positive Latinos. The HIV Health Services Planning Council prioritizes the CARE Act funds and allocates funding to specific service categories, one of which is case management.

Last week, Carter's appearance at the town hall meeting was to address the council's role in the actions that led to the decision to

...there are more than 3,500 people living with AIDS waiting on a housing list that does little...

spent on social service programs for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Carter, who said he has fought in the struggle against AIDS locally for nearly 10 years, said in his statement that he was one of the chief architects and proponents of the integrated services model adopted by the planning council last year. One of the results of this model was that non-duplicative case management services were combined with peer advocacy and treatment advocacy programs.

"Unfortunately, one of the first visible results to come about from this change has been the elimination of the *Vida y Movimiento* program," Carter said.

Carter ended his statement with a plea that discussions continue and that people ask themselves, "Whose interests are being served by this diversion from the real issue? I trust in the judgment of my friends in the Latino/a community, and hope that cooler heads prevail," he said. ▼

Life gotcha down?

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Curtain call for Josie's?

by Cynthia Laird

Marga Gomez, Musty Chiffon, and Varla Jean Merriam have all performed there. So have Lea DeLaria, Supervisor Tom Ammiano, and many others.

The place, well known to San Francisco's cabaret fans, is the ever-popular Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint on 16th Street in the heart of the Castro District. But all those great performances may be coming to an end soon; owner Ron Lanza told the Bay Area Reporter Tuesday, August 4 that he's put the business up for sale and the three prospective bidders have expressed no interest in running the place as anything other than a restaurant. Josie's has been both an eatery and a well-known cultural night spot since Lanza opened the doors October 3, 1990.

Lanza called the newspaper as a way of "letting the community know" that there may be major changes at Josie's soon. While he has yet to make a decision — despite near-constant prodding from his real estate agent — Lanza is also kind of hoping someone from the community will step forward to keep Josie's as one of the happening night spots in the Castro.

"I wanted to get the word out in the gay community," Lanza said. "No one [of the prospective buyers] is interested in doing the cultural club."

The asking price for the opportunity to run the business with a 10-year lease guarantee from the property owners? A low \$149,000, Lanza said, although he added



Bowing out: Josie's Ron Lanza

that at least one potential buyer has raised his offer. "It's only been listed for two Sundays in the Chronicle," said Lanza, adding that the low asking price probably accounted for the offers he has received. Most of the money from the sale will go to Lanza's landlords and the Internal Revenue

Service, he added.

Lanza actually operates two businesses at Josie's, he explained. Seven days a week the establishment is a vegetarian restaurant, and then starting at 6 p.m. the place is transformed into a nighttime cabaret and club setting. He was wistful as he recounted all the big and not-so-big name gay entertainers who have appeared at Josie's over the years.

"All the big gay comics have performed and we've had hypnotists, drag queens, and singers," Lanza said.

Lanza was asked what prompted him to put the business up for sale, and his answer revealed that he's caught the performance bug after seeing so many acts take the stage over the years. "I turned 62 in June," he said, "and that started me thinking. I put my own acting career on hold and I'm not getting any younger." ▶

It's not too late to make an offer; prospective buyers should call Josie's at (415) 861-7933.

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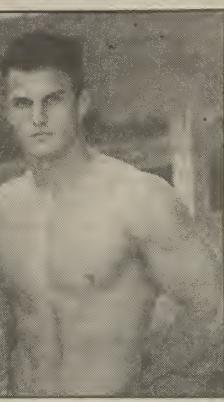


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Gender brainstorm tonight

by Timothy Rodrigues

The Harvey Milk Institute (HMI) is holding the first of several monthly community meetings, tonight (Thursday, August 6) at 7 p.m., to solicit suggestions on themes or topics for the 1999 Gender Conference.

The conference, which will likely be scheduled for November of next year, draws participants from around the country; organizers expect up to 1,000 people.

"In the general realm of queer studies, gender is a hot topic and focal point to be explored," said Kevin Schaub, executive director and dean of HMI.

All gender issues are possible themes or topics for the conference.

Organizers hope to draw on community interest and enthusiasm, strategize early for the active involvement of the large diverse community that will shape the atmosphere of the conference, and draft a contact list of individuals interested in assisting in the production of the conference.

The meeting will be at the Eureka Valley Park and Recreation Center, located at 100 Collingwood Street at 18th Street.

Those unable to attend but interested in contributing their "excitement, contacts, expertise, or experience" can send info. to: HMI, 584 Castro Street, #451, San Francisco CA 94114; e-mail harmilk@aol.com; or fax (415) 863-4740. ▶

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Sticks and stones, orally

Given the heat from coast to coast in these dog days of August, it's natural that people are getting short-tempered; cooler summers than this have boiled Americans' brains beyond civility, leading to riots and bloodshed, so we can all be grateful that that kind of violence doesn't look imminent.

But that's not to say the absence (mostly) of physical warfare signifies a lack of violence. This year, the fashion in violence is verbal.

We see it in the actions of the religious right, as some trenchant letter-writers point out this week, and sometimes in the reactions from this side, as the distinguished author of the guest editorial on this page discusses. It's verbal violence when the co-chair of the city's HIV Health Services Planning Council says "Fuck you" to a forum audience member. And it's verbal violence, we think, for one politician to refer to another as "that homosexual." When Supervisor Mabel Teng recently specified to a radio audience that Supervisor Tom Ammiano is "that homosexual," she came dangerously close to crossing into territory occupied by the worst elements of the religious right. (Fortunately, more polls show that territory is a minefield: The stories on pages 18-19 refer to the Republican's own polls that show voters hate their gay bashing; a subsequent poll of American honor students showed more than half support gay marriage, and two online polls (*USA Today* and *The McLaughlin Group*) show that Americans disagree with those recent anti-gay newspaper ads at least three-to-one.

We hope politicians will remember that, near and far. In other words, whether it's Teng vs. Ammiano, or Fong vs. Boxer, or any other race, we don't need to hear references to irrelevant characteristics that have no bearing on their qualifications.

We also don't need to hear any more AIDS activists and council co-chairs who should know better telling audience members "Fuck you." (For more on that story, see page 4.) What was most surprising to us is that the person who blew his cool did so while taking the blame for a serious problem – the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's elimination of services to Spanish-speaking people with HIV – when he really shouldn't

have been on the stage at all. It should have been the foundation taking the heat in front of those angry ex-clients: as long as it has (around) \$3 million surplus (beyond the surplus that's built into the budget for contingencies, and therefore not surplus; we're talking about surplus here) it can very well afford to keep those services going. Donors to that monolithic organization must keep asking: What are our donations buying? ▀

Editorial

Ben Carlson

Ad ventures and ad vantages

**Dr. Mel White, Justice Minister,
The Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community
Churches**

In the past few weeks, fundamentalist Christian organizations have escalated their attacks on lesbian and gay Americans. We are tempted to answer these misinforming voices with equally colorful sound bites of our own; however, rushing to do battle with angry words and clenched fists will not help our cause. We must not react, but we must respond. The anti-homosexual rhetoric leads to intolerance, suffering, and death for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans. It must be confronted and the Soulforce principles of relentless nonviolent resistance of the Mahatma Gandhi and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. show us how.

First, when untruth threatens, we respond with truth.

There is a positive side to this series of full-page anti-homosexual ads in America's major newspapers. One of my non-religious, heterosexual friends was enraged by their blatant untruth. "How can they say these things?" he asked. In fact, they've been saying these things for years but saying them virtually in secret, on their TV and radio programs and in their direct mail campaigns and fundraising appeals.

Now, the untruth is out there where our friends and neighbors can read it for themselves. Although the untruth confuses many, it will also win allies to our cause. We have one task only: respond to the untruth with truth. They have invited us to "a new national discussion of homosexuality." Let's accept!

Second, when untruth threatens, we respond with truth in love.

Soulforce is founded on Jesus's words: "Love your enemies." Gandhi defines that love as refusing violent actions, violent words, even violent thoughts against our adversaries. King said love must control fist, tongue, and heart. To win the minds and hearts of the nation, our community must

take the moral high ground. We must learn to out-love those who caricature and condemn us.

I know the men and women behind these ads – Pat Robertson, James Dobson, Gary Bauer, D. James Kennedy, Beverly LaHaye. Whatever their motives, they truly believe that we are sick, sinful, and a threat to the nation, that we can and should be "cured." They have not taken seriously the scientific, historic, and biblical research that demonstrates clearly that God created us and loves us exactly as we are. It is our job to help them discover this new truth.

Just decades ago, many of our current adversaries were misusing the Bible to support segregation. The folks behind these anti-homosexual ads are as ignorant about homosexuals as Governor George Wallace and Sheriff "Bull" Conner were ignorant about African-Americans. King didn't yell back at his enemies. He didn't call them bigots or liars. He didn't waste time hating them or plotting their destruction. King demonstrated the truth about African-Americans by his loving response to the untruth. We must demonstrate the truth about homosexuals by the way we respond to the war of words being waged against us. We must not hate or fear those who misunderstand us. We must lovingly liberate them from the untruth that holds them hostage.

Third, when untruth threatens, we respond with truth in love relentlessly. We will not confront the untruth effectively until we have responded with relentless determination. For too long it's been a war of words. They launch their missiles. We counterstrike. They take out ads. We respond with ads of our own or we hold a rally, a demonstration, a benefit, or a one-day march; then thinking we have advanced the cause, we all go out to party. Soulforce calls us to a far more difficult and demanding task.

First, we make a list of their dangerous and deadly untruths. Second, we do our homework, preparing our answers to each untruth

with carefully researched truth. Third, we accept their offer of "a new national discussion of homosexuality" and ask them to join us at the table in a mutual search for truth. Fourth, if they refuse to join us at the table; or if, when there, they refuse to negotiate seriously an end to their anti-homosexual campaign, we take direct nonviolent actions that will convince them (and the nation) of our sincerity and compel them to join us at the table.

The 15 organizations listed at the bottom of the anti-homosexual ads are the nation's primary sources of misinformation, not just about homophobia but about other minorities, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the separation of church and state. We must surround these organizations with truth in love relentlessly, not just for our sake but for the future of this nation.

One-day protests will not do it. Ad campaigns will fail. No one cares if our one-day marches are bigger than their marches. In South Africa and India, Gandhi led his people in relentless direct actions to demonstrate their sincerity and to win friends to their cause. Refusing to give up until their truth prevailed, King's "children" faced water hoses, police dogs, beatings, jail terms, and lynchings. Our time has come. We are second class citizens in our own country. Our freedom is at stake. Our lives are on the line. It is time for a new strategy of relentless nonviolent resistance.

Gandhi says "Just take the first step and the rest will follow." It is time to try. Thinking ourselves safe in our closets, we are sleeping through a revolution. The Soulforce guidelines are clear. Truth cannot prevail until those who hold that truth are willing to live and die for it. ▀

Guest Opinion

For more info, contact: Soulforce, Inc. at PO Box 4467, Laguna Beach CA 92652; call (310) 360-8640, fax: (949) 455-0959, e-mail RevMel@aol.com, or visit the www.melwhite.org website.

LETTERS

'Raw' meet

On behalf of the volunteers and staff of Stop AIDS Project, I wanted to take a moment to thank Liz Highleyman and the *Bay Area Reporter* for both the news coverage and editorial (30 July 1998) regarding "Harder, Faster, Longer," our community forum on Viagra use among gay and bisexual men. In your editorial, you wrote, "The forum was an example of a community-based organization doing what it's supposed to do: providing a resource targeted at an emerging problem that affects the health and well-being of people." We couldn't agree more. Our role as a community-based organization is to have our ear to the ground, to respond to the issues of sexuality and HIV prevention that affect positive and negative gay and bisexual men of all ages and colors.

As part of our continuing community organizing work in key San Francisco neighborhoods, activists and community leaders in SOMA and other parts of San Francisco have asked Stop AIDS to provide an opportunity for gay and bi men to talk openly and honestly about the increasingly visible issue of barebacking, a term used to describe fucking without condoms. In response, Stop AIDS will host "Wild Thing" next Saturday, August 15 at 2 p.m. at Powerhouse (1347 Folsom @ Dore Alley). Mr. San Francisco Leather 1998 Stephan Edwards will lead a discussion about the role and significance that raw fucking plays in the lives of gay and bisexual men.

If readers are interested in getting involved with Stop AIDS or have an idea for a future community forum topic, they can call us at (415) 575-0150.



Robert A. Pérez
Communications Manager, STOP AIDS Project
San Francisco

Straight thinking

John S. Connolly III writes (Mailstrom, 7/23) that "A man who is completely 'straight' wouldn't dream of surrendering his body on the alter of queer sex for money. Period."

This statement is obviously false. In fact, it is widely known to be false. No straight hustlers? Talk about living in dreamland! Either Mr. Connolly has had no experience with hustlers (in which case he is writing from complete ignorance), or else he enjoys a pathetic fantasy that every guy who has taken his money for sex is "really gay" — even if the guy turns right around and spends all that money on his wife or girlfriend.

In any case, Mr. Connolly refers no proof at all for his assertion, which leads me to believe that he just gets a thrill out of writing horseshit letters to the editor.

Fingal O'Flaherty
San Francisco

Miles to go before Joe sleeps?

Gary Morris turns out a readable column, especially in reviewing Federico Fellini's *Nights of Cabiria*. ("Working Joe," July 30.) With American entertainers he can be most amusingly naive. Of course Dalleandro never shot dope, especially in front of a camera. While Morris unhesitatingly takes the star's word about heroin, he's quite willing to doubt Dalleandro's sexuality. Sylvia Miles is quoted favorably on the temperature of Joe's skin. To the best of my recollection, Miles, while often surrounded by gay men, seldom has encountered significant difficulty in getting laid. Why then, is it considered implausible, or even disappointing that Dalleandro defines himself as bisexual?

Frederic Fox
San Francisco

AEF + PUC 4ever

The board of directors of the AIDS Emergency Fund would like to commend an outstanding organization, the Phoenix Uniform Club. At a recent Inter Club Fund event the members of the Phoenix Uniform Club presented the AEF with a check for \$6,000 which represents the proceeds from their annual Uniform Ball. Bravo!

The members of the club are tireless volunteers who give tremendous amounts of time, energy and dollars, not just to the AEF, but to many, many organizations. You see them everywhere, at every event just getting the job done, whatever it is.

The Uniform Ball has evolved into one of the premier, not-to-be-missed events and this year was no exception. It's got it all; great food, Gail Wilson and City Swing, and a chance to dress up and show off. Proving that you can have a blast and still raise lots of money. If you haven't already done so, be sure to mark your calendar for the weekend of Pride Week next year.

Thank you again to the Phoenix Uniform Club for your longstanding support of the AEF.

Loren Berthelsen
President, AEF board of directors
San Francisco

How are atheists and GOPs alike?

As a national board member of the Gay and Lesbian Athletes and Humanists I want to thank you for publishing the guest editorial in the July 30 edition of the *B.A.R.* ["*Queer atheists raise objections to Millennium March*."] It often seems that two groups of people who are not perceived as true members of the community are Republicans and atheists.

The person who submitted it, by the way, is Tom Klem — not Tom Klein.

Dick Hewetson
San Francisco

[Editor's note: We apologize for the error. Nothing worse than getting that Place at the Table, only to find your place card is misspelled.]

When public meets pubic

There she goes again with her sweeping generalizations, her stereotypes and her faulty reasoning.

Beth Elliott, as she is wont to do, makes over-broad universal pronouncements in her July 23rd column ("Thank you, Rob Morse," July 23 *B.A.R.*); this time about lesbian sexuality and about gay men and their feelings about lesbian sex. Her column clearly shows her discomfort with anonymous sex.

Elliott also misses the point about having a united front when it comes to the straight world imposing its rules upon queer sex. Queer folks supporting each other is not "co-opting" Elliott's sexuality for "someone else's agenda." When the State comes down on gay male sexual activity, it should be of concern to all same-gender loving people, not just those men that engage in that activity.

Elliott tries to distinguish women's sexuality from men's — I agree with her — they are different. But contrary to her implication, women do have anonymous sex. And according to friends, lesbians indeed do have sex in public spaces, including South of Market alleyways and on BART trains. There are certainly SM dykes whose sexual practices have more in common with those of SM gay men than with Ms. Elliott's sexuality. So, although the numbers aren't those of men having sex in "public" places, it cannot truthfully be said that "it isn't a woman kind of thing."

Men are being arrested for "public" sex every day around this country and their lives are being ruined by homophobic cops — not only for having sex but just for cruising and trying to take someone home. Entrapment is a daily occurrence. Cops lie about what the men they arrest were actually doing. Cops are not just busting those who are "interfering with anyone else's use of public facilities" as Elliott terms it; busts in this city happen in much more remote "public" places than the Transbay Terminal. These events must be put into their larger context, as this is not happening in a vacuum. Do I think bathroom sex is a good idea? No; but like prostitution, it is a victimless crime. Do I think arresting men in bathrooms and the windmills will stop these activities? Hardly. If we condone cops busting men (some who are gay identified; some not) for "public" sex, can you be sure that it doesn't include men just cruising? As for entrapment, why believe a cop's word over the gay man's? How big a step is it from busting guys in "public" space to interfering in "public" places like sex clubs? To hassling customers coming out of the bar down the street? Since there is little outcry from the queer community about these busts, do emboldened homophobic cops try to take harassment further? Gay bars in L.A. are now being harassed by the ABC and the LAPD (including automatic pull-overs for all patrons driving away from gay bars, while patrons literally stumbling out of straight bars go to their cars unimpeded). I believe the crackdown on "public" sex contributes to a climate that continues to be hostile to all queer sexuality (Ms. Elliott's safe lesbian sex included) as well as to sex workers of various genders and sexual orientations (who sometimes turn tricks in "public" spaces as well).

I also found it rather disturbing when Ms. Elliott generalized from one gay man's discomfort with lesbian sexuality to all gay men get "nauseous" with the specter of two women going at it. Such extrapolation is ludicrous. I am a man who is gay because I love men and click, not because I have any problems with women or their vaginas. There is no "ick factor" when I am faced with lesbian sex, women's sexuality or body parts. Sexuality is something to be celebrated, no matter what the gender combinations are.

Ms. Elliott asks us not to "drag lesbians into it when the public goes ick!" over gay male sex (as if the Het public will accept lesbian sex if disassociated from gay male sex, and as if they didn't go "ick" at the Ellen kiss on television). The queer community should unite when it comes to supporting one another around consenting adult sexuality; if not, it's divide and conquer.

Rob Petitpas, Chair
LGBT Committee of the National Lawyers Guild
San Francisco

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LETTERS

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One letter, 44 quote marks

The 12th World AIDS Conference held in Geneva presented evidence that "HIV" testing and "viral load" markers are not proof of hypothetical "HIV infection." The International Forum For Accessible Science (IFAS) gave an official Satellite Meeting "HIV-testing: open questions regarding specificity." Scientists in Perth, Western Australia, led by Eleni Eleopulos, a biophysicist (linked up via satellite) demonstrated to a panel of "HIV" critics and audience that there had been no isolation of "HIV" according to the scientifically approved standards for retroviral isolation as set out by the Pasteur Institute in 1973. It was concluded that PCR-HIV testing and viral-load counts are invalid and non-specific for hypothetical "HIV infection." "HIV" has never been isolated directly from AIDS patients.

Meanwhile, hunger strikers outside the Palexpo Centre demanded that Dr. Bernhard Hirschel, Conference Chairman, provide the proof for the existence of "HIV" (including characterization of the ten putative "HIV" proteins and of the "HIV" genetic material which are essential for true "retroviral" isolation.) Dr. Robert Gallo was asked at a press meeting: "Shall you present to the hunger strikers the scientific proof of the existence of HIV, Dr. Gallo?" Gallo's response was "Shut up!" Is saying "Shut up!" a form of scientific proof? In response, the hunger strikers released a statement to the assembled world media on the fifth day of their strike: "We have come to the conclusion that 'HIV' has never been isolated. That means that nobody can confirm the existence of 'HIV.' Today our hunger strike has empowered our position. Neither the president nor the other 'AIDS specialists' has provided the scientific proof we ask for."

At the closing press meeting I asked members of the panel, Dr. Hirschel and Richard Horton, editor of *The Lancet*: "...the current indirect HIV tests and PCR are not sufficient proof that HIV has been isolated. Where is the proof that HIV exists?" None of the panel could answer. *Bay Area Reporter* journalists and readers must demand proof that "HIV" exists: and do it now.

Alex Russell
Assistant editor, *Continuum*
London, England

Well-serving, or self-serving?

Your July 30 issue speaks of Mayor Willie Brown initiating the 1999 mayor's race by beginning to seek key early endorsements for his re-election ("Gay politicos weigh in on mayor's early endorsements"). You quote the mayor as saying, "I don't think democracy is well-served with me having an opponent."

Really, I have never heard anything spoken as ludicrous. This mayor does not have the slightest idea of what this country or democracy is all about. Although he has done some good things for the gay community, he has not even formulated a policy to deal with the homeless. He has usurped the most fundamental constitutional right of every San Francisco voter by stuffing the ballot box a year ago in the 49ers' stadium vote. He associates himself with gambling/organized crimes/political corruption personalities such as Edward DeBartolo.

What unmitigated gall this man has to think that we people are just going to sit back and keep our mouths shut while this little dictator gets away with all this crap.

People such as Fran Kipnis and John Lira, who think that the mayor has earned consideration for an early endorsement, are among those political hacks and sycophants, who if requested by Willie would get down on their knees and kiss his ass in Macy's window and then rise to proclaim to the world how wonderful it was.

Thank God that the electorate of this City do not listen to these fools.

Glen-Alien McKeever
San Francisco

[Do you really believe the mayor would choose Macy's window? Macy's? Please.]

Yes, but? No, thanks.

Democracy is poorly served by re-electing someone like Willie Brown, who has so little respect for it. I'm astounded by Fran Kipnis's equally low regard for "open and democratic" processes, you're either for it or not – there is no "yes ... but!" when it comes to something so valuable and fragile.

Brown has done a few cosmetically wonderful things, and he's demonstrated a willingness to fuck anyone if it advances the cause of business or property owners (can you spell-check "pass-through"?). He's worse than Mike Tyson (if you can believe that) at taking criticism.

I want to know who else wants to be mayor. I want to know why. I may not be consistent, or logical, in how I vote, but this ain't no robo-ball or puncher.

Thornton Kimes
San Francisco

We are the other Other

There is a certain Nazi logic to the invective of several politicians and some religious political extremist groups in the United States. Each group is using homophobia, fear, and ignorance to curry favor with voters for upcoming local and national elections. There are disturbing parallels in this logic that bring to mind the Third Reich's use of the Jew to electrify, excite, and unite a nation.

For the Third Reich to work, there needed to be an "Other," an outsider, a minority that was feared and loathed for illogical reasons. To that "Other" could be given blame for all the ills that transpired in a society that lost a World War and was mired in the Depression. That "Other" was exploited by the creators of the Third Reich. Somehow, if the "Other" was purged from the society, harmony and economic well-being would return and the nation would once more follow the righteous path.

This Nazi logic lead to intolerance and discrimination so terrible that Jews were eventually stripped of their citizenship, property, homes and lives, all accomplished using existing German laws. Nazi logic used a propaganda machine to drive acts of violence committed by a whole nation. Without citizenship, property, a home and friends, the Jews sank to levels of the non-human to the true believers. Since they were no longer human and next to vermin in the mind of a believer, they were ripe for extermination.

The gay and lesbian have become the new "Other" for many politicians and some religious political extremists. Although the language is English, the Nazi logic is the same. For these groups, the gay or lesbian is somehow less than the heterosexual or the god-fearing. He is a kleptomaniac, diseased, godless, a child molester, or worse. He will infect your children with gayness and AIDS, is unfit to serve his country, and will pervert your way of life and bring down God's wrath from the heavens. He is evil, he is the "Other," the reason why society is degenerating and why marriage needs defending. If we deprive him of his rights, take away his livelihood, and cast him out, all will be well with the world and with God.

Often, the creation of the "Other" needs covert and overt approval by people in high places, people who are terrified of changes and loss of control. Approval of hatred is often dressed in religious symbols and texts to make credible, absurd and dangerous notions of supremacy and self-righteousness. Although the messages may appear to be glazed with Christian compassion and concern, their subtexts reveal messages of intense intolerance and bigotry. Those giving approval are as guilty as the actual bashers who commit verbal and physical violence on the gay community. It is our Kristallnacht.

Damiano Iocovozzi
Martinez, CA

Where is the gay outrage?

Today's news about the U.S. house targeting San Francisco's partners law shows the gay community is once again under attack by the Republican Party. A couple of weeks ago the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *USA Today* ran full page ads denouncing and attacking the gay community.

So where is the fire of the San Francisco gay community which is under attack by these fanatical groups and only going to get worse? Where is the leadership of the gay papers which should be using their front pages in bold lettering to denounce this zealous treatment of gay men and women and questioning groups and politicians why they are not organizing?

Is this not reminiscent of the late '70s when Anita Bryant was spouting lies across the country? Yes, but this time it's worse because it is coming from the floor of Congress and well heeled right wing organizations!

Get off your asses, people, and start making noise because these groups are not going away quietly or anytime soon. We have been officially under attack and it's time to start fighting back!

Steven D. Keller
San Francisco

My God

The quote from the B.A.R. article "Religious leaders speak" [July 30] is an example of how ridiculous all this religious discussion is. The Rev. Kwabena Rainey Cheeks, speaking to an "ex-gay," says, "If your God is not large enough to make someone gay or lesbian, my God is. My God is so big that it embraces all of us." The one God that so many profess seems to be a different God to each individual.

Will the real God please stand up!

Dick Hewetson
San Francisco

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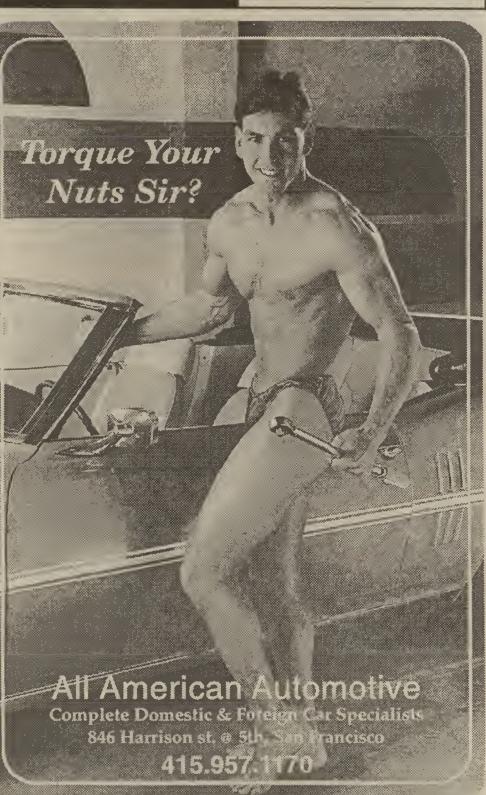
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POLITICS

GOP takes off gloves against Boxer

by Wayne Friday

Although he was nearly counted out only weeks ago in his primary fight against a millionaire electronics whiz, Republican U.S. Senate nominee Matt Fong, the state's treasurer, now finds himself, according to a couple of recent polls, in a virtual political dead heat with incumbent Senator Barbara Boxer, so the national Republican party last week made the Boxer-Fong battle the top U.S. senate battle in the November general election.

While Boxer currently holds a huge advantage over Fong in the financial war chest department — she currently has nearly \$4 million in the bank while he reportedly has less than \$1 million — national Republicans now think that the incumbent Democrat is vulnerable: so much so, in fact, that they are now willing to "spend whatever it takes" to pick up the seat in November. Smelling a win for Fong, they are holding fund-raisers for him in New York and Washington by the number and nationally known GOP figures like Jack Kemp, Arizona Senator John McCain and Speaker Newt Gingrich have

Our Man Friday

already been in California to hit the GOP faithful up for Fong dollars. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott is scheduled to appear at a big Fong dinner in Southern California later this month, and other Republican leaders will soon follow. Can Fong unseat the tough Boxer in a toe-to-toe political slugfest?

One thing that remains to be seen in the Fong-Boxer campaign is just how much the gay and lesbian members of the GOP do for Fong. Gay and lesbian Republicans can ask themselves before they vote November 3 whether, when the candidate tries to pass himself off as a political "moderate," that means he will take the middle of the road — or try to ride on both sides of the fence. They may find the answer in the way Fong stands with Lott (who has made it very clear that he will never let San Franciscan James Hormel's nomination go to a vote while the GOP controls the senate) while also saying that if he were a senator he would vote for Hormel as ambassador. Since that is meaningless in the real world, he apparently hopes to appease anti-gay Christian right supporters — but not offend those badly needed gay and lesbian Republican voters either. Pointing out this very issue, the respected CALPEEK weekly newsletter out of Southern California said last week that "Fong is trying to give a little to each side — and in the process offending both," adding that Fong "is a nice and likable person, but also very wimpy" on hot-button issues such as gay rights.

But only after Fong's recent statements to the press that he agreed with Lott about homosexuality being a "sin" did Lott, House Speaker Gingrich, and the Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee (co-chaired, incidentally, by Oklahoma Republican Senator James Inhofe, one of those directly responsible for



Courtesy of the Log Cabin Club of S.F.

Matt Fong

stalling the Hormel ambassadorial nomination) offer him the money he needs to mount a credible campaign against Boxer: current reported estimates start at \$5 million and go to three times that.

Before the recent polls, national Republicans had apparently felt that it would make more sense to target two or three "marginal" states where they may have had a chance of winning, rather than spend the big bucks in California where Boxer looked unbeatable. But Fong, a candidate who overcame a rival's 4-to-1 spending edge in the GOP primary, has now encouraged the national GOP to the point that Lott, Gingrich, & Co. have ordered a full-court press for money. The wealthy business community and the anti-gay conservative Christian right organizations in particular seem willing to pony up against the liberal Boxer (who, though a high-profile politico, has seldom pushed above 50 percent in the job approval rating during her six years in the senate).

Boxer's camp, not surprisingly, contends that the Republican party's willingness to drop upwards of nearly \$15 million to shore up its candidate is a measure of just how much trouble Fong is in. It should be pointed out that Boxer is herself no amateur when it comes to raising campaign money and clearly she has a very powerful ally herself when it comes to raising campaign funds: President Bill Clinton.

Politics and people

Debate No. 1: According to whom you asked, last Friday night's first of five scheduled television debates between Democrat Gray Davis and Republican Dan Lungren was, at best, a political draw. I watched the debate, and while the two covered a lot of ground and important issues (crime, education, abortion, economy — the usual things) I definitely thought I'd have given the edge to Lungren. The Republican nominee seemed better prepared, managed to filibuster most of the hour by his endless answers, and spoke more forcefully. Lieutenant Governor Davis, in turn, looked more like a governor: he was relaxed, smiled at all the right times, and clearly had Attorney General Lungren on the mat on the abortion issue ... but has to learn to interrupt when it becomes clear, as it did several times Friday, that Lungren doesn't intend to share the air time with Davis. ▼

If one was to only hear the debate, Lungren probably came out the winner (he spoke better), but to those of us who watched it, Lungren looked terrible: he was bathed in perspiration while Davis looked cool and unruffled, but Lungren spoke louder and more often than not got in the last word. Lungren, clearly hoping to hang the specter of Jerry Brown on Davis, repeatedly mentioned the former governor, while Davis, in his closing remarks, said "I want to take us forward; I would suggest that Mr. Lungren's friends, Newt Gingrich and [Bob] Dornan are pretty good indications of the direction he would take us if he could." No knock-downs, and certainly no knockouts in this one — still four to go, however. Both have political strengths — and weaknesses.

Gay rights — Davis's support of them, and Lungren's opposition — were not even mentioned last Friday, but will surely be done so in future debates. Davis clearly won points on supporting the right to choose for women on the abortion (Lungren is opposed to abortion totally) while Lungren seemed to score points when boasting about his efforts to battle the crime issue.

One area that Davis can be expected to refer to in future debates is his military experience: he served in Vietnam, while Lungren, whose father served as Richard Nixon's personal physician, received a medical deferment, due in large part, his critics say, to the efforts of then-President Nixon. Circumstances of Lungren's deferment have often been questioned, even by some Republicans, because it was issued without a physician's exam.

George, the glossy magazine published by John Kennedy Jr., reports in its current issue that one-time California Demo gubernatorial hopeful (and loser) multimillionaire Al Checchi pledged during the primary campaign to donate \$8 million to the state Demo party to help maintain control of the state Legislature; "I've not heard of that one," said Assemblywoman Carole Migden, one of the party's better fundraisers, adding that "the guy spent a good chunk of that amount on hair spray and pin-stripe suits."

Longtime gay activist Frederick Hobson and businesswoman Donna Casey are among the latest to announce for San Francisco supervisor in November. Speaking of that race: is it time for the leaders of the battling Milk and Toklas Democratic clubs to patch up their silly petty bickering? As in, soon enough for both clubs to endorse and work hard for the election in November of Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno, two excellent candidates who both deserve to win.

Political analysts in San Jose are saying that the mayoral race there is all but over unless Republican councilwoman Pat Dando suddenly wins the Lotto; Dando is so far behind Democrat Ron Gonzales in the fundraising department that any potential contributors are reluctant to give her badly needed funds. Gonzales leads Dando in the June primary 45.7 percent to 38.2 percent and most see Gonzales as the big winner in November as San Jose's next mayor. ▼



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Kneepad-deep in the hoopla

by Beth Elliott

I feel cheated. I heard on the KFOG Morning Show about the issue of *TV Guide* that debunked urban legends involving entertainers, such as that Beaver Cleaver died in Vietnam and Eddie Haskell became a porn star, etc. I got fishing in by the mention of the rumor that Olivia Newton-John was a lesbian ... and found no mention of her or her rumor in the article. Actually, I've heard that she came out as bisexual a long time ago ... which would explain the wistfulness of "I Honestly Love You." Readers, any definitive word on this?

On the case: Supervisor Tom Ammiano called the paper after reading my Rob Morse column. We had a nice chat, in which he said that the original story about the Transbay Terminal did involve protesting a case of entrapment, and that a lesbian lawyer successfully intervened. I said that I was happy to hear that this act of standing up for justice was the actual precipitating event of the spiral of media coverage. I guess I could have suggested saying, "You're extorting money from taxpayers to pay someone to wag his wee-wee in a bus station john?" but that might have been pitting government downsizing against sexual freedom, thus reminding myself how unlikely it will be that I'll get the opportunity to vote for many candidates in favor of both.

Calling a Spayed A Spayed Dept.: And that's not just a reference back to my riff on infertility a couple of weeks ago. I heard a funny story the other day from Susan Stryker, ace historian babe. It involved the fact that research librarians, as part of the information they elicit from people

calling in with questions, try to ascertain how urgent is the need for the particular information so they'll know whether to fast-track it or get to it in the normal course of events. So it seems someone on the threshold of doing the male-to-female transsexual thing was calling the S.F. Public Library for information on hormones, etc., and the librarian inquired as to what kind of deadline she was on with the stock question, "And what is the cut-off date?"

In case you didn't see it, *New York Times* syndicated writer Frank Rich got off an absolutely dazzling response to the big conservative Republican-backed advertising blitz for brainwashing ... er, "therapy" programs for "leaving homosexuality" (I'll take "Leaving Las Vegas" over that any day ... Sheryl Crow rocks, and so does loving women.) Rich calls the Exodus program "unscientific" (which it is), and points out that a *Time* magazine story questioned just how "former" a lesbian poster girl Anne Paultk is.

Rich very perceptively pointed out that it's only a small step from the kleptomania and alcoholism slurs to "the argument that gay Americans who refuse to change are no more entitled to civil-rights protections than thieves are" ... or even entitled to freedom in general. He goes on to suggest that if Trent Lott, et al. "really want to prove that all gay people should and can turn straight, why don't they begin the experiment by 'healing' their own party? They could enlist high-profile gay Republicans, like Representative Jim Kolbe and New

York political strategist Arthur Finkelstein, in ex-gay ministries, along with gay Capitol Hill staffers, then publicize the results. The operators at the 800 number in the ads are standing by for their call."

Wow ... I bow in the presence of greatness, because I sure wish I'd written that!

Actually, we could probably do with some ex-bimbo therapy for some of the so-called feminists whose steadfast pronouncements on sexual harassment have gone by the boards now that the pen dipped in the company inkwell belongs to a handsome, pro-choice Democratic president.

Here's Larissa MacFarquhar in *The New Yorker*: "It would be a rare young woman who could resist ... a chance to sleep with a man who is (a) the president and (b) a babe."

Then there's former Time White House reporter Nina Burleigh on playing cards ... and possibly footsie ... with the Presidential Bubba on Air Force One: "When I got up and shook his hand at the end of the game, his eyes wandered over my bike-wrecked, naked legs. And slowly it dawned on me as I walked away: He found me attractive ... There was a time when the hormones of indignant feminism raged in my veins. An open gaze like that, at least from a man of lesser stature, would have annoyed me. But that evening ... if he had asked me to continue the game of hearts back in his room at the Jasper Holiday Inn, I would have been happy to go there and see what happened."

Hmm ... maybe we need definitive word on this from a staunch opponent of sexual harassment like Katie Roiphe: "I think there has been a shift in the cultural climate since the time of the Anita Hill hearings." Gee, I guess there has. Now, this virile president is suddenly fulfilling this forbidden fantasy of this old-fashioned, taboo aggressive male. I think women are finding that appealing." And some women are finding this whole deal hypocritical. I mean, I'm all for sex and for acting out, not suppressing, "forbidden" fantasies. I'd like to live in a world in which women are free both from unwanted come-ons and to follow wanted come-ons. We must admit, though, that to say on one hand, that practically any come-on is intimidation akin to rape itself, and to say on the other something like Nina Burleigh did in the *Washington Post*: that she would happily have had "a certain kind of sex" with President Bill "just to thank him for keeping abortion legal."

Think we might live in a world more pleasing to feminists if we maintained a little more credibility?

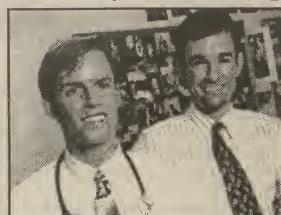
BTW, if you think I was rude to gay men with my column about Transbay Terminal public sex arrests, Camille Paglia's online columns at *Salon* (www.salon.com) will make you have an aneurism. Camille's nothing if not entertaining. ▼



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SCIENCE

MTF seeks MTF, why?

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

An "autogynephile"? What in heaven's name is that? Another Greek-sounding medical diagnosis designed to oppress a sexual minority?

Well, sort of. The term was coined in 1989 by sexologist Ray Blanchard, of the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto. It describes a subgroup of male-to-female transsexuals who, he believes, have been thoroughly misunderstood. And some of these very transsexuals are standing up to say they agree with him.

The "classic" transsexual is a person who, from early childhood, has the sense of belonging to the other sex from that which his or her anatomy indicates. In childhood, such a boy or girl may show many behavioral traits of the other sex and may express a wish to become the other sex. When sexually mature, he or she is sexually attracted to people of his or her own sex, but does not identify as gay or lesbian. Rather, he or she identifies as a heterosexual person of the other sex. Often, a classic transsexual seeks sex-reassignment surgery to bring the body into harmony with the mind, and to achieve sexual relationships with heterosexual partners.

This kind of transsexuality has a lot in common with homosexuality. In my view, it probably represents an extreme case of the same kind of sex-atypical brain development that, in a less marked form, produces gay people. But increasing numbers of people, mostly men, who request gender-reassignment surgery don't fit this picture. Many of these men do not have a history of marked gender-nonconformity in childhood, and say that they are sexually attracted to women. In other words, men in this group are heterosexual, but become homosexual after surgery.

Blanchard believes that what motivates such men is a sexual attraction to the idea of themselves as women, and he translates this concept into Greek as "autogynephilia." He thinks that autogynephilia is essentially an extreme form of heterosexual cross-dressing: that is, instead of being sexually aroused simply by the thought of wearing woman's clothes, an autogynophile is aroused by the thought of wearing woman's body. It is, Blanchard thinks, a kind of fetishism - a projection of the libido onto an atypical object or idea.

One person who thinks Blanchard is at least partly right is physician and sexologist Anne Lawrence. Herself a male-to-female transsexual, Lawrence participates in an annual retreat for "new women" (postoperative male-to-female transsexuals). In a 1997 presentation at the International 13 on Sex and Gender, she described the results of a survey of 13 women at the retreat. Ten of the women identified as lesbian or bisexual, and the same number said that the idea of themselves as women was sexually arousing to them. Over half of the women said that the idea of themselves as women had been their primary erotic fantasy prior to their sex change, in line with Blanchard's hypothesis. Many of the women were specifically attracted to other male-to-female transsexuals, and had been in sexual relationships with them. "Is it?" asked Lawrence at the congress, "because they are our own fantasies made flesh?"

Why has autogynephilia remained hidden until recently? Probably because male-to-female transsexuals have feared that they won't be accepted as "real" women, or even as "real" transsexuals, if they acknowledge having such fantasies. Indeed, as Lawrence pointed out, surgeons might well not want to perform surgery to help someone act out their fetishistic fantasies. Yet the crucial question is not what brings a person to a surgeon, but what the long-term outcome of surgery is for a person's sexual and mental health. The answer to this question is not yet in, but identifying autogynophiles as a distinct group of people is a necessary prelude to finding it.

There's been plenty of debate, over the years, about the "naming" of sexual minorities by doctors and other professionals. Has the invention of clinical-sounding terms like "homosexual," "transvestite," and "transsexual" helped or harmed the people the terms were intended to

describe? In my view, the net effect has been beneficial: the terminology and the medical discourse helped identify groups who had been profoundly harmed by their non-recognition in society.

Still, to reap the benefits of such identification has required the active participation of the "named" groups themselves. They, after all, are in the best position to assert that they are not sick and have a right to social respect. Typically, as part of this process of reaction, the named groups have insisted on non-medical designators such as "gay," "cross-dresser," and "trans person." The day someone insists on a friendlier-sounding term than "autogynephile" will be the day another sexual minority claims a place at the table. ▶

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., may be reached at SLeVay@aol.com. For more Queer Science columns, visit www.gay.net.



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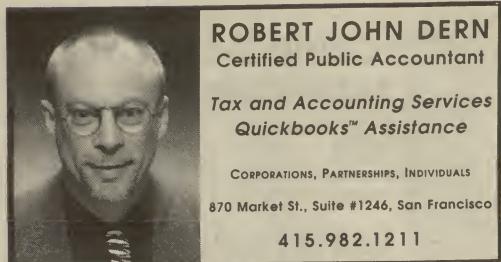
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Is AP sex-obsessed?

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

A July 26 report by the Associated Press (AP) on Washington state congressional candidate Margarethe Cammermeyer focused on her sexual orientation, and made only peripheral reference to other attributes she may bring to the campaign.

The story, which identified Cammermeyer as the Democratic primary front-runner, acknowledged, "On the campaign trail, she doesn't talk homosexual rights." But beginning with the headline – "Decorated Lesbian Runs for Congress" – it was clear homosexuality was about all reporter David Ammons intended to talk about in the 23-paragraph piece.

Only twice did the article focus on something other than Cammermeyer's sexuality: when it reported that she "spoke about education, healthcare, the environment, and countering Republican Congress who considers radical and heartless" at a recent event, and when it quoted her saying, "I'm an everyday person who has a healthcare background and an education background. I am a mother, a grandmother, and served in Vietnam."

In addition, Ammons incorrectly identified the Victory Fund as "a Washington, D.C., group

that backs homosexuals for public office" instead of a national, Washington-based agency that contributes to the campaigns of selected candidates of any sexual orientation. It ends by noting that one of Cammermeyer's primary opponents "mailed a fundraising letter saying her campaign is being underwritten by the national homosexual movement."

Please let AP know that its chosen headline serves to ghettoize and make one-dimensional a candidate of considerable, diverse and well-documented accomplishments. Tell the wire service that its focus on Cammermeyer's sexual orientation is of far less importance than the opportunity it missed: to acquaint voters with her position on issues that could affect their lives for decades.

Contact: Julia Rubin, News Editor, Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10020-1666, fax: 212.621.7520.

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Already a sold-out favorite in Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco, *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* is quickly becoming the gay-themed independent movie of the summer. The film stars Sean P. Hayes from the upcoming NBC comedy *Will & Grace* as Billy, an aspiring LA photographer who falls head over heels for his new model, Gabriel (Brad Rowe). The two get along glowingly, with only one small glitch: Billy is not sure if Gabriel is straight or gay. The movie deals touchingly with unrequited love, and the intricacies of coming out as the film's characters search for companionship and love. On Friday, August 7, *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss* will open in an additional 18 cities nationwide, including Boston, Houston, Miami, and Seattle.

Further cities will follow throughout August and September.

For more information on the film's release, visit <http://www.billyskiss.com>. To tell Trimark Pictures what you think of *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*, contact Trimark Pictures, 2644 30th St., Santa Monica, CA 90405-3009, fax: 310.392.0252.

Oh dear, Abby!

The original version of a letter in Abigail Van Buren's nationally syndicated advice column Dear Abby reads, "Laws against domestic violence should focus on the abuser, whoever the abuser is – male or female, straight or gay, rich or poor." Here's the edited version from the July 24 *Philadelphia Daily News*: "Laws against domestic violence should focus on the abuser, whoever the abuser is." In her original reply, Van Buren wrote, "After reading your letter, I would concur that the laws should be amended so that all batterers, regardless of gender, should be liable for their actions." The *Daily News* version removed her mention of gender.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs Report on Same Gender Domestic Violence, issued October 6, 1997, states that the coalition's review of recent national studies found that domestic violence occurs at the same rate in same-gender as in opposite-gender relationships – but that same-gender victims are even less likely to seek help because they are unaware that their relationships also can be subject to domestic violence. The *Philadelphia Daily News* editorial deletions are particularly disturbing, therefore, because they act to perpetuate the invisibility of this chronic problem.

Please let the *Philadelphia Daily News* know that its less-than-thoughtful editing has reinforced a significant problem in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community instead of helping to ease it. Also, please thank Abigail Van Buren for her sensitive reply.

Contact Deborah Licklider, Features Department Editor, *Philadelphia Daily News*, 400 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19130-4015, fax: 215.854.5852, e-mail: dalynews.opinion@phillynews.com; Abigail Van Buren, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069

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COMMUNITY NEWS

S.M. town hall AIDS confab next week

by Marv. Shaw

AIDS Community Research Consortium (ACRC) Executive Director Michael Edell has announced a special "Town Hall" meeting next Monday, August 17 at the Fair Oaks Community Center multi-purpose room, located at 2600 Middlefield Road in Redwood City. Experts from many AIDS services in San Mateo County will inform all interested people of developments in treatments, services, and related information at the ACRC-organized meeting from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Edell, who will moderate the conference, explained the meeting will be at Fair Oaks, because the demographics of patient distribution indicates that there is a high incidence of the disease in that south county area. He emphasized the meeting will tie in community needs and concerns with findings from ongoing research and treatment.

Areas of concentration include the newest of drug combination treatments, a special province of Dr. Dennis Israelski of the San Mateo County AIDS Program. Israelski will report on a follow-up study of patients hard hit by the epidemic and the importance of treatment maintenance.

Dr. Jill Legg of San Francisco General Hospital's AIDS Clinic will report on the increasing suc-

cess of prevention of HIV transmission from infected mothers to infants delivered by caesarian section, plus other problems of women with HIV.

Luther C. Brock, coordinator of ACRC's community education and outreach, will explain the relationship of San Mateo County's program and the global picture of AIDS as presented at the recent international AIDS conference in Geneva, Switzerland. Brock will also deal with the special problems in education and prevention that arise among the injectable drugs group.

The occurrence of HIV and hepatitis C together and the special problems for treatment that presents will also be explored, and the treatment strategies explained.

Time is planned for questions from the audience.

Admission is free, and refreshments will be served. ▼

Prospective attendees are asked to telephone (650) 364-6563 before Thursday, August 13 to reserve a seat.

S.J. Pride seeks board

The San Jose Gay Pride Celebration Committee (SJGPCC) is seeking applications for board members for the 1998-1999 committee.

"With the huge success of this year's celebration, we are hopeful more people will step forward and participate in next year's," said SJGPCC President Mark Gillard.

The 1998 Pride celebration will mark 25 years of San Jose parades.

Anyone interested in applying should pick up an application at the SJGPCC box at the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 175 Stockton Avenue in San Jose, or by mail, or by calling (408) 278-5563.

Completed applications should be returned to SJGPCC, 45 North First Street, #89, San Jose CA 95113-1295 in person at Pipers Vision, Marketing and Design, 1020 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126. They are due promptly by Wednesday, August 19. Interviews of candidates and selection of new members will be held on Sunday, August 23.

— Vicky Kolakowski

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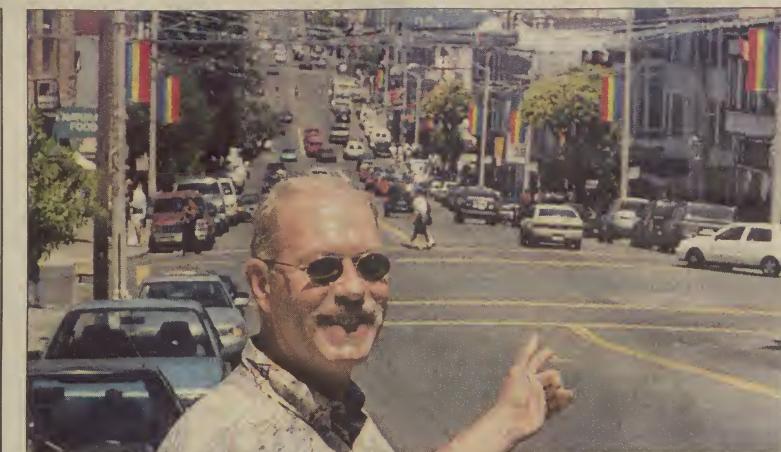
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Marc Geller

Under the rainbows: Patrick Batt shows off the latest in lightpole accessories.

Year-round pride now on display in the Castro

by Shan Schwartz

The annual pride festivities are more than a month behind us, but pride banners will continue to hang year-round in the Castro District, thanks to the efforts of a local merchant organization.

The Merchants of Upper Market and Castro (MUMC), an organization of 170 Castro-area businesses, collected funds and erected the rainbow-colored banners earlier this month.

The large, bright banners hang from light posts on 18th Street between Collingwood and Hartford streets, on 17th Street between Castro and Hartford, on Castro Street between 17th and 19th streets, and on Market Street from Noe to Castro.

MUMC President Patrick Batt told the Bay Area Reporter that the idea for year-round pride banners had been in the works for about two years. Producers of the International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, which takes place each June, had previously put up banners in the neighborhood each year for

the film festival. Then each July, following the close of the festival, the banners and posts had to be removed.

Batt said MUMC officers made a deal with the film festival producers to take over control of the posts, which included acquiring city permits, paying for insurance, and keeping the posts maintained. MUMC gets year-round use of the posts for the pride banners, except during the film festival, when those film festival banners will be displayed. "Frameline [the festival producers] saves money," Batt said, "because now they don't have to put the posts up and take them down every year."

Besides the logistical details that had to be worked out, money was also an issue. Made of a heavy awning material, the banners cost about \$300 each, and with a two-to-three-year life expectancy, they will also need constant maintenance and replacement.

MUMC acquired funds through three channels: a \$3,000 grant from the Castro Street Fair, \$1,800 dollars raised by MUMC by collecting donations at the 1997 street fair, and \$3,500 donat-

ed by Universal Pictures when the company came to the neighborhood earlier this year for location shots for *Ed TV*, a movie still in the works that was filmed in the Castro Theater and surrounding areas. The film is directed by Ron Howard.

That \$8,300 paid for the existing banners, but Batt said MUMC hopes to continue raising funds through other activities and by continuing to collect money at the Castro Street Fair. Besides maintenance and repair, additional funds will allow banners to be placed further up Market Street and other streets in the area.

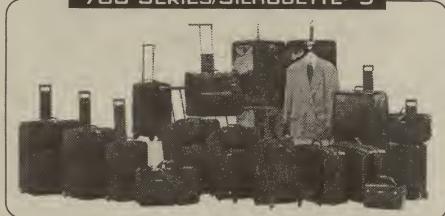
Now that the banners are finally in place, he said, the banners have caught people's attention, and reaction has been good.

"As soon as people realize they'd be a permanent thing, I got lots of positive feedback," he said. "Not just from businesses in the area, but especially from residents and visitors." ▼

People interested in donating money for the banner project should call (415) 621-1188.

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Gay architect joins Friends of Parks board

by Cynthia Laird

Openly gay architect John Lum has joined the 28 members of the board of directors for the Friends of Recreation and Parks, a nonprofit organization committed to protecting and enhancing the city's parks. Board President Michael J. Fleming made the announcement in late July.

Lum, whose recent project AsiaSF opened to critical acclaim, said he is challenged by the planning issues surrounding parks. The Friends of Recreation and Parks is involved with Golden Gate Park as well as the 205 neighborhood parks throughout the city, open spaces, and recreation programs. The organization has raised millions of dollars to help ensure a bright future for San Francisco's 4,000 acres of park land.

"I'm particularly interested with interfacing of the garage, recently approved by San Francisco voters, with the existing facilities," said Lum, referring to the under-



John Lum

ground parking garage that voters approved in June while at the same time dumping a proposed renovation bond for the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum located in Golden Gate Park.

Lum, an ardent volleyball enthusiast, has a background in planning and creative ideas on many things, including, "how the

Stanley and Haight improvements will take place."

Recently Lum, 36, served on a citizens advisory committee for school improvement bonds, Propositions A and B. He has also received a Design West Award from ASID and *Sunset* magazine for the Paradis Restaurant and Jazz Club in Palo Alto.

"As one of the youngest members of the Friends board, I hope to bring enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to their projects," said Lum.

Some of the Friends' recent projects include: the revitalization of Golden Gate Park's West End, planting tens of thousands of trees and shrubs; creation of the Neighborhood Park Grants Program; and opening Golden Gate Park's first visitor center in the Beach Chalet. ▼

For more information on Friends of Recreation and Parks, call (415) 750-5105 or visit their website at www.frp.org.

If you're HIV+, CRIXIVAN may help you live a longer, healthier life.



■ New NIH research showed people taking CRIXIVAN in triple therapy lived longer and experienced fewer opportunistic infections.

Recent year-long research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (Protocol ACTG 320) studied over 1,000 patients and confirmed results from another study.

The group of patients receiving CRIXIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. This reduction was significant enough for the NIH to recommend the study be stopped, so that all participants could benefit from the findings. Because the study was ended early, there was insufficient data to determine the statistical impact of CRIXIVAN on survival.

■ CRIXIVAN in triple therapy continues to hold serum viral load down below the limit of detection at the one year mark.

In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIXIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems). Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one year mark.

■ CRIXIVAN is generally well tolerated.

CRIXIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIXIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIXIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor. As with other protease inhibitors, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Please read the following page for detailed information on side effects and dosing.

Please read the following page for more detailed information about CRIXIVAN.

Remember to ask your doctor about CRIXIVAN.

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(indinavir sulfate)
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Going the distance.

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 T-cell count. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor. Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, **every day**. It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, **wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time**. However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. Take CRIXIVAN with water. You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal. Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
 Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and lessen its effect.
6. It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) throughout the day, **every day**. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

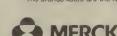
- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN. Also talk to your doctor if you have:
 - Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
- Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?**

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine) HISMANAL® (astemizole)

VERSED® (midazolam) HALCION® (triazolam)

PROPSUDI® (cisapride) Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT) BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)

TAGAMET® (cimetidine) isoniazid (INH)

DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole) ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)

EPIVIR® (lamivudine, 3TC) ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)

BACTRIM®/SEPTRA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: abdominal swelling; inflammation of the kidneys; increased fat appearing in areas such as the neck, abdomen, and back; change in skin color; severe skin reactions; hair loss; crystals in the urine; and allergic reactions.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F-86°F).

Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

AIDS vanity license plate bill awaits Wilson's signature

by Cynthia Laird

State legislation that was spearheaded by San Francisco Supervisor Gavin Newsom and gay city resident Jason Hinson that would create a "Fight AIDS" vanity license plate to raise awareness and money, has cleared the state Senate and is awaiting the signature of Governor Pete Wilson, Senate President Pro Tem John Burton (D-San Francisco) announced Thursday, July 30.

Backers expect Wilson to sign the measure, SB 844, and are already working to get the minimum 5,000 people pledged to purchase the special plates. Once the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has at least that many applications for the \$50 plate, production can begin. With an annual renewal fee of \$40, the plates are expected to generate \$500,000 annually to fund AIDS research grants awarded by the University of California.

"I'm very, very excited. This will be a success, we will easily meet and surpass the 5,000 [applications]," Hinson told the Bay

Area Reporter. "I'm very optimistic the governor will sign it and it has the potential to do a lot of good."

Hinson came up with the idea nearly two years ago and has been working with Newsom for the last year on the plan. A red ribbon, symbolizing the fight against AIDS, is emblazoned on the special license plate.

"This epidemic has taken a tragic toll, killing 65,000 people in California alone," Burton said. "This is a modest but important effort to make more money available for research into a cure for this terrible disease."

Kopp on coffee break?

Newsom said the measure passed in spite of opposition from state Senator Quentin Kopp (I-San Francisco). Kopp had said law enforcement officials were complaining about the state's numerous vanity plates being too hard to read and had a moratorium imposed on them. Local officials and state legislators, however, worked around that issue and the "Fight AIDS" plate meets and even exceeds the standards contained in

the moratorium, Newsom said. "Senator Kopp stepped out for a cup of coffee or something," Newsom said on KTVU's *Mornings on 2* program. The vote on the bill was 22 to 4.

The supervisor told the B.A.R. that there was a trade-off involved with getting the bill through the Legislature; some other specialty plates were removed. "It's nice to see something happen," said Newsom. "We're putting together a strategy for a petition drive."

Hinson and Newsom are expected to be working out the details of a drive to get the 5,000 needed applications; and Hinson said interested people should look for booths at the upcoming Folsom and Castro street fairs.

Ironically, SB 844's approval in the senate comes on the heels of a federal judge's ruling that the DMV cannot refuse to issue a license plate reading "HIV POS" to an East Bay man who applied for it. U.S. District Judge Susan Illston ruled Tuesday, July 14, that since the state has allowed plates such as CANCER, and END HIV, denying the HIV POS plate would be discriminatory.▼

Teng, Ammiano

◀ page 1 To Bay Area Reporter

a tight race for the board presidency; each is running in November and whoever finishes with the most votes will lead the supervisors. Three other seats on the board are also up in the fall race.

At one point near the end of the broadcast last week, Teng was talking about the two supervisors who voted against the budget, Ammiano and Leland Yee. According to a transcript of the broadcast on Chinese Radio 1400 AM, Teng said, "The two supervisors who opposed the budget, one was our Chinese community's own Leland Yee and that homosexual supervisor, Tom Ammiano."

The Milk Club has called for Teng to issue an immediate apology to Ammiano as well as to step down as sponsor of the Alice B. Toklas street renaming. Additionally, the club is calling on Teng's political consultant, John Whitehurst, to sign the city's Ethics Commission's voluntary code of conduct that includes a pledge not to appeal to prejudice based on sexual orientation and that Teng herself pledge not to use homophobic tactics again.

Too far this time

Milk Club President Criss Romero on Thursday, July 30 sent a letter to Teng that accused her office of not responding to calls from him inquiring why the club was not invited to participate in the street renaming photo opportunity Teng staged for the media in late June.

"This time you have gone too far," Romero stated, referring to the alleged radio incident. "We demand a meeting with you to discuss this issue and other issues." He gave Teng a deadline of 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4.

Teng had just returned from a family visit on Tuesday. An aide in her office said the supervisor is

being briefed on the fracas but would probably not make any comments.

In sharp contrast to the Milk Club, the Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club fired off a letter to Romero. Co-chair Fran Kipnis stated that her club "does not in any way share your bizarre view of the radio incident." Kipnis went on to state that translation is an inexact science and that it's easy "for those not sensitive to cultural and linguistic differences to misinterpret translations, there is no direct correlation between Chinese and English."

Kipnis blasted Romero regarding the Milk Club's demands, saying that "our community's longstanding relationship with Supervisor Teng is such that we can easily meet with her to resolve any misunderstandings."

"It is important to deal with leaders from other communities with dignity and respect, not through cheap publicity stunts," stated Kipnis. "To even suggest 'homophobic behavior' from a progressive leader of the Chinese community without regard to the true meaning of her comments is disrespectful. Moreover, at a time when our community is under assault nationally, it is ill advised and unproductive to attack friends of the gay and lesbian community for what appears to be short term personal political advances."

GAPA investigates

GAPA member Perry Chen said people in the organization have listened to a tape recording of the radio broadcast and are in the process of compiling their translation, expected to be announced within a week. Chen declined to comment further on the matter. The organization did issue a two-page statement that comes out against the Milk Club. "GAPA is surprised and concerned that the Harvey Milk Club chose to address the media directly as its first step," Chen stated.

According to the statement, GAPA believes "that all community-based organizations that are truly committed to building coalitions and fighting the united battle for civil rights should exercise caution in politically charged situations, particularly those involving communities that have commonly suffered through much prejudice and bashfulness," quoting the Milk Club's letter.

More importantly to GAPA members, the group is concerned with statements that accuse Teng of making comments on Chinese radio because she "believed members of the LGBT community would never have discovered her comments," as the Milk Club stated.

"Our concern is that these statements may presume that the 'members of the LGBT community' are uniformly only English-speaking. As an organization that represents people who are at the intersections of several marginalized groups ... GAPA is acutely aware that such presumptions render much of the real LGBT community invisible, [such as] queer people of color, [and] non-English speakers. Within GAPA's membership alone, there are many queer people who listen to and understand Chinese radio," Chen stated.

Ammiano wanted to avoid getting directly involved in what's becoming the subject of heated discussions in the community, even though it was a Chinese-American aide of his that provided the translation now being questioned. "I think it is very important to be fair to Supervisor Teng in terms of culture and interpretation," Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I also think all of us candidates need to be fair when identifying each other during the heat of the campaign, especially when we are being critical."

At press time, Ammiano said he had left a message for Teng, saying he'd like to talk with her in an effort to straighten out the mess.▼


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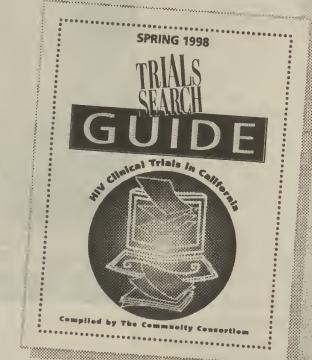
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Call 1-(800)-492-5777 (toll-free), or (415) 476-5777 (SF local).Internet: <http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu/tsearch>Email: tsearch@sfaids.ucsf.edu**Riggs-amarole:****Locals react to House ploy to defund SF**

by Timothy Rodrigues

Local officials vow to stand by San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance and will continue to fight the so-called Riggs Amendment in Congress that could result in the loss of millions of federal dollars to the city.

The House of Representatives voted 214 to 212 on July 29 [see related story opposite page] in support of an amendment to the VA-HUD (Veterans Administration and Housing and Urban Development) Appropriations bill to prohibit the use of any of these federal funds for the implementation of Chapter 12B of the San Francisco Administrative Code (the law prohibiting discrimination by city contractors). The amendment was introduced by Congressman Frank Riggs, who represents the North Coast of California.

Riggs proposed three different versions of the amendment and ultimately introduced a version that targets San Francisco. It could affect up to \$265 million in federal housing funding, including AIDS housing and lead abatement.

Mayor Willie Brown remains strongly committed to the equal benefits ordinance and will continue to fight the Riggs Amendment as

it moves through Congress. "When it comes to a matter of discrimination, the mayor only stands on one side of the issue — non discrimination," said Steve Kawa, director of legislative affairs for Brown.

In a prepared statement, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi said, "It is beneath the dignity of the House of Representatives to consider this legislation, which is solely motivated by the Republican Party's homophobia."

Supervisor Leslie Katz, a co-sponsor of the equal benefits ordinance, released a statement calling

Catholic Charities, declined to comment when asked several times if she minded that Riggs was using their agency's name in his efforts, or whether Catholic Charities wanted him to stop.

Since the amendment is part of the House version of the appropriations bill, but not the Senate version, the issue must be reconciled by a joint conference committee, likely in the fall.

Brown has been in communication with Pelosi, and several members of both parties in Congress, including California Re-

A narrow-minded and hate-filled effort to undermine ... protections against discrimination

the Riggs amendment "a narrow-minded and hate-filled effort to undermine not only local autonomy, but also a broad array of protections against discrimination."

Representatives for Riggs did not return calls from the B.A.R.

Riggs has been using both the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities as examples of what he thinks is wrong with the equal benefits ordinance. Both agencies have raised concerns about the law (in the case of Catholic Charities it was the Catholic Archdiocese). The Salvation Army refused to sign contracts with the city rather than comply with the ordinance; Catholic Charities was permitted to allow their employees to cover a legally domiciled adult with their benefits. Spokespeople for both agencies stated that they have not been in contact with Riggs.

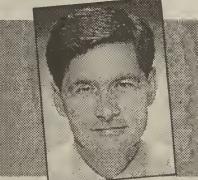
However, Paula March, executive director of development for

publican Congressman Jerry Lewis, chair of the subcommittee responsible for this appropriations bill and a leader on the conference committee.

Lewis voted against the amendment and is expected to lead opposition in the conference committee. Also, seven of the 13 members of the house delegation on the committee voted against the amendment. Both the House and the Senate get one vote at conference based on the majority vote of their delegation, and both votes are required to pass an item from committee.

Kawa said his office will work to have the amendment blocked in the conference committee.

According to a statement from Katz, in the year since the ordinance became law, 1,738 companies, employing over 700,000 people, have been certified by the city as providing equal benefits to domestic partners. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Hilleary, Hefley, and Riggs, oh my!

by Bob Roehr

The far right's congressional assault on gays and lesbians reached a fevered pitch during the last week of July, and while there were losses, the overall outcome was surprisingly upbeat.

Northern California Republicans Representative Frank Riggs put forward an amendment to the funding bill for Veterans, Housing and Urban Development, late on July 29. It prohibits the city of San Francisco from using federal funds to implement a local law requiring contractors with the city to offer domestic partner benefits equal to those offered to married couples. The measure passed, but by a surprisingly razor thin margin of 214 to 212.

Democratic Representative Patrick Kennedy of Rhode Island was among the dozen or so lawmakers who spoke out against the measure on the floor of the House, calling it "a mean spirited, bigoted amendment." Nancy Pelosi of California defended local autonomy, saying, "The city of San Francisco is not forcing anyone to act against their principles."

Only Riggs spoke on its behalf. Lesbian and gay advocates believe it unlikely that the Senate will pass a similar measure, and are working to remove the amendment in the eventual conference to resolve differences between the two bodies. The amendment would not preclude use of local funds to administer the program.

Carl Schmid, a lobbyist on local issues with Log Cabin Republicans, noted that 21 Democrats defected on the Riggs vote, while 33 Republicans crossed over to oppose it. "That is the most Republican votes that I've seen on a gay issue."

PWAs vs. vets?

Tennessee Republican Van Hilleary put forward an amendment to move \$21 million from the HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS) program to construction of extended care facilities for veterans. He argued that the number of new AIDS cases had declined by 6 percent.

Daniel Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, called it "a cynical ploy to pit veterans against people with AIDS." Cornelius Baker, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA), said that the measure was defeated on a voice vote, but when Hilleary pressed for a roll call vote, it passed 231 to 200.

The issue is more complicated – and the outcome more opti-

mistic – than the raw vote indicates. Veterans are a perennially favorite of appropriators and had been promised funding for these facilities tied to the tobacco settlement. When that legislation crashed and burned, folks were left scurrying for other sources of revenue in a tight budget. HOPWA funding was increased by \$21 million over the current year, so it was a vulnerable target.

Appropriations subcommittee chair Jerry Lewis, another California Republican, loudly opposed the amendment, and the vote was closer than many anticipated, given the popularity of veterans. Also, many knew that the Senate had already "marked up" their version of the appropriations bill and included the \$21 million increase for HOPWA.

Baker "does not believe that the members were voting against AIDS so much as they were voting for veterans; they are an extremely powerful lobby." He is confident that the money will be restored in the conference that works out differences between the chambers.

Committee harbingers

The House Appropriations Committee turned to the District of Columbia on July 30, and again the extreme right offered amendments.

Kansas Republican Todd Tiahrt tried to ban unmarried couples from adopting children, which of course would preclude gay and lesbian couples from adopting. Earlier newspaper accounts had Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia and committee chair Robert Livingston of Louisiana supportive of the amendment, but heavy lobbying swung them around.

When it came time to mark up the bill, Republican committee member Jim Kolbe of Arizona, who is openly gay, spoke movingly of a gay couple who had adopted a child from a Russian orphanage. Livingston said that a voice vote defeated the amendment and then ruled against a call for a roll call vote. All the while, Traditional Values Coalition lobbyist Andrea Sheldon squirmed in her seat.

Tiahrt later tried to prohibit spending of both federal and local funds on needle exchange programs. But an amendment by Democrat Jim Moran of Virginia limited it to just federal funding. Tiahrt sputtered that would change nothing, but the alternative passed by a resounding 24-15, with at least eight Republican votes, including Livingston's.

Schmid called both votes "a big victory. The Traditional Values Coalition was really turned down.

They only got three people willing to ask for a recorded vote" on the adoption amendment.

Zingale is pleased by the committee vote, and hopes it reflects what will happen on the floor of the House. But "with this kind of stuff flying around, it is not a good environment for passing our most important appropriations bill [Labor/HHS]." He fears possible amendments on mandatory HIV testing of pregnant women and partner notification.

Poll tacks

Some are speculating that an amendment by Colorado Republican Joel Hefley to overturn President Clinton's executive order standardizing non-discrimination in federal employment for lesbians and gays [see "Homophobes back off in the House," B.A.R. July 23] will never come to a vote. They argue that the far right has already gotten its recorded vote of the session on a gay issue, the Riggs amendment, and will get no more.

Polling data indicates that the far right's politicization of gay issues is not playing well among mainstream voters. And employment issues in particular have the strongest pro-gay, anti-discrimination majorities.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released its latest poll, showing that Americans oppose the Hefley amendment by a margin of 64-28 percent. It reinforced a survey released earlier in the week by the moderate Republican Leadership Council, which showed "swing voters" opposed to the

morality agenda of the far right.

"Republican right is wrong on gays," read the headline of a July 29 column by former presidential advisor Dick Morris in the newspaper *The Hill*. "While Americans still feel that homosexuality is 'morally wrong,' by 52-41 percent," they still support the president's executive order by a 66-24 percent margin, he said, citing his own poll of 500 voters. Even self-described supporters of the Christian Coalition break even on the discrimination ban 45-47."

Morris concluded, "Republicans who are using anti-gay legis-

lation to energize their base are, at best, shooting blanks and, in their sanction on states and opposition to a discrimination ban, actually [are] alienating the very voters they seek to attract."

As the Republican leadership reads those polls, and watches the close vote on the Riggs amendment and the dissension among their own members, they may decide that they do not want another vote on a gay issue. We may even be approaching the point when gay and lesbian advocates want a vote on the Hefley amendment, confident that they will win. ▼



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Napa vintner

◀ page 3

be removed from the case and the matter turned over to the state attorney general's office. According to the complaint, filed by Frucht and J. David Nick, attorney for Deisinger, "The nature of the incident, the identity of the alleged 'victim' [the winery owner], and the extreme weakness of the DA's case all suggest that there is either a political or a bias motive behind the charging of this case."

They essentially suggest the charges were initially filed and later increased to a felony because the defendants are gay and the winery owners have political clout in Napa County.

Napa County Deputy District Attorney Lee Phillipson, who filed

the charges, was in a runoff election for district attorney and, as reported by Frucht, has taken at least \$15,000 in campaign donation from wineries or their owners.

"We think there were improper motives for charging and overcharging this case," said Frucht.

Phillipson refused to comment, and referred calls to another DA who did not return a call from the B.A.R. Additionally, according to Frucht, Phillipson dropped out of the runoff race the day after the motion to recuse was filed.

On August 3, the court granted a motion for a full evidentiary hearing allowing the defendants to move forward in presenting their case against the district attorney's office. The preliminary hearing is scheduled for this Friday, August 7. ▼

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Basic science update from the 12th AIDS Conference:

The Immunologists Strike Back

by Jeff Gustavson, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Dr. Jay Levy, from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), a rapporteur for the basic science track at the XII International AIDS Conference in Geneva last month, presented data from his ongoing studies in search of the elusive and yet-to-be-characterized CD8-associated factor (CAF). Levy, with a slight touch of humor, says that "there are 10 years in the life of a factor, and I've only had eight so far."

Levy recalled the inability to isolate HIV directly without the removal of CD8+ cells from the media in which they were cultured, suggesting a non-Major Histo-Compatibility Complex restricted, or in other words a non-specific immune mechanism was responsible for the immune suppressive activity.

Longterm non-progressors

Levy then went on to talk of

his studies of asymptomatic longterm non-progressors saying that in cells taken from those persons and cultured, there was a notable decrease in viral messenger RNA as compared to progressors, however, the frequency of latently HIV-infected cells was the same, suggesting that the block occurs at the level of transcription and is not coreceptor (CCR5, CXCR4) restricted.

In other words, he has shown CAF to be distinct from the chemokines (MIP-1-alpha, MIP-1-beta, and RANTES) that Dr. Robert Gallo from the Institute for Human Virology so eloquently showed in December 1995 as being capable of blocking HIV entry into CD4 cells. When this writer asked Levy to speculate on the mechanism underlying this transcriptional block, he said it may inhibit NF-Kappa-B, a transcription factor that binds the Long Terminal Repeat (LTR), the functioning enhancer region for the proviral genome.

HIV-specific CD4

Dr. Bruce Walker, from Harvard, showed his data on the absence of anti-HIV specific CD4 cells in progressors to symptomatic AIDS and his successful efforts to preserve them in people with early infection by treating with antiretroviral drugs and suppressing viral burden.

The French Connection

Dr. Brigitte Autran, from France, presented her work on how the V-beta repertoire becomes skewed as a result of HIV infection. The V-beta repertoire is a measure of the depth of the number of different antigens to which a person's T-cells can respond, and in fact refers to the portion of the T-cell receptor responsible for variability or diversity.

Autran showed that a trend towards normalization occurs following successful treatment with potent protease inhibitor containing regimens and correlates nicely with the second phase rise in T-cells, as well as with the percentage of cells that are naive—that is are brand new and have yet to be called into action. She then extrapolated outward and predicted that it would take approximately seven years of a highly suppressive regimen for a near complete normalization of the CD4 cell repertoire.

Reconstitutional amendment

Autran's work points to the controversy of the origin of these naive cells. Traditional dogma holds that adults no longer have a functioning thymus. T-cells are however capable of maturing outside of the thymus, but are generally thought to have a much narrower range of specificity.

Recently, Dr. Mike McCune, from the Gladstone Institute here in San Francisco, published his work in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, showing an index of thymic mass by CT scan (a com-



Jay Levy

puterized X-ray) in adult males with HIV infection correlates with a high percentage of naive cells as measured by the surface markers CD45RA and CD62L.

Lips like sugar

In collaboration with Dr. Marc Hellerstein, McCune has also shown that incorporation of deuterated glucose (glucose that has a non-radioactive isotope or alternate form of hydrogen and can be detected by mass spectrometry) into the sugar backbone of the DNA of naive T-cells, which again points to new generation. They did this by infusing HIV-infected volunteers with this special blood sugar, and then taking blood samples and analyzing them.

The circle game

Dr. Rafick Senkreal, from the University of Montreal, also in collaboration with McCune, explained his work with excision circles. These loops of DNA are made when the T cell rearranges its V, D, and J genes which code for the variable portion of the T-cell receptor. These circular byproducts are only present in brand new T-cells, their progeny will lack these circles.

Currently, they are determining what is the normal range for the frequency of these cells in HIV-negative adults. They will then look for them in HIV-positive people and hope to find a greater number of them, thereby taken in sum total with all of the work above, will show almost absolutely that adults are capable of immune recovery.

Certainly, they are trying to sort out if it is possible to stimulate this function, sort of jump start it in people who are HIV-infected, because ultimately if the immune system can gain the upper hand, it ought to be able to control or at least minimize HIV infection. One of the take-home messages from the conference was that virologists have taken the problem as far as they can for those whom they have been successfully able to treat, but ultimately, HIV/AIDS is an immune disorder that must have an immunologic solution, both in terms of a vaccine as well as treatment. Great strides are being made in the basic science arena that are bringing us incrementally closer to these goals. ▼

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

James David Large

August 7, 1944 — July 29, 1998



James David Large died July 29, 1998 as he lived, quietly, at his San Francisco home, of complications from AIDS.

Jim, beloved

and loving son of Harold and Helen Large of Mountain Home, Arkansas, was born in Saint Louis, Missouri, educated in Alton, Illinois, served honorably in the U.S. Navy, and moved to San Francisco in 1980. His varied life experiences included trust vault officer, florist, Chicago Dept. civilian complaint investigator, charter airline president, bookstore manager, arcade owner, and lastly, property management specialist with Region IX of the EPA. He retired in 1993.

His friends will remember him as an outgoing person with a wry wit and infectious laugh, and especially for his coining of "Electric Purse" for the now-defunct Atlas \$8. ATM machine.

He was a member of MHR Church and the Polish National Alliance.

Jim's parents, a brother, Russell, four nephews, and his long-time loving com-

panion of 24 years, Gregory Gralik, survive him. He also leaves his adoring dog, Lunch, and a neighborhood raccoon, Newt.

Memorial mass and celebration arrangements will be announced. Peace be with you, little fellow. We all will meet again.

O. J. "Jay" Lewis
July 24, 1998

O. J. "Jay" Lewis, a Sonoma artist, decided on Friday, July 24, to end his struggle with AIDS and took his life. He was 63.

Born in Fairfield, California, his art career began while he was in the Army and was invited, in 1959 and 1960, to exhibit paintings at a private gallery in Pusan, Korea.

Back in civvies, he worked as a designer and decorator in Hayward for several years before moving to Los Angeles. Those LA years began with tireless industry and austere poverty, and finished with satisfying recognition and splendid exhibits from Palm Springs to Santa Fe, Scottsdale, San Francisco, Tokyo, and Waikiki, among many other places. His exquisitely crafted pieces are treasured in the homes of his many friends.

But of all the art works that Jay created, he was the prize: he was slender, handsome, possessed of a stunning smile, and he dressed in his own exacting style; no one ever forgot meeting Jay.

A memorial is slated for Saturday, August 29. For further information, call (510) 886-4263, or (510) 886-0294.

Memorial contributions may be made to We Care Bay Area, P.O. Box 77747, San Francisco, CA 94107-7747, or to Face to Face, 883 Second St., Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

Charlie Seltz
November 12, 1961 — July 24, 1998

The dance will go on forever. Donations being accepted at AIDS Emergency Fund and the American Cancer Society.

Eddie L. Shoemaker
March 29, 1942 — July 29, 1998

Eddie L. Shoemaker passed away quietly in his sleep, from AIDS related complications. Known to all that loved him as "Shoe," Eddie will always be remembered by his friends for being friendly, helpful, and for his gracious smile and helping hand.

Eddie became seriously ill in May, and was hospitalized at Mt. Zion until his untimely death.

Eddie was the manager of Hawaiian Airlines at SFO for the past five years. Prior to that, Eddie was the manager of Clown Alley, and prior to that a flight attendant for World Airways.

He is survived by his life partner, Don Miner, his beloved aunt Evelyn, uncle Richard, aunt Katherine, many nieces and nephews, and the many friends that loved him so much.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, August 8, 4 p.m., at Sullivan's Funeral Home, 2254 Market St., in San Francisco. A celebration of his life will follow services.

At Eddie's request, in lieu of flowers, please send donations to Project Open Hand.

John Wynn
Feb. 24, 1958 — Feb. 27, 1998

John died at home with his devoted brother, Bill, by his side, in his beloved San Francisco. John is survived by a large extended family and his long time nurse and social worker. John was a loving and creative person, who wrote poetry and could make art out of buttons, scraps of material, or anything available. He had a marvelous sense of humor and was a very courageous and independent person (though at times overly generous). He was unique and precious and will be deeply missed.

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Bronze age

by Jim Provenzano

In Europe, they often call wrestling "Ringen," which is often confused with boxing. I find that confusing, because where I learned wrestling, you don't punch your opponent.

That fact eluded one of my two San Franciscan opponents here at Gay Games in Amsterdam, as did factual accuracy in our day of glory. Blame it on "the Norwegian system."

But before delving into the cabala of confusion, let's start with the basics. Early on, the day started well enough, with only a 90-minute delay in getting weigh-ins done (the official must have been run down by one of those mad cyclists zooming through the 'dam streets!) so the many grapplers could replenish, stretch, and get underway. After all, many of us had cut weight, exercised, and prepared for this day for, oh gosh, years.

But when the only trained official did finally arrive, she decided to change to usual system of double elimination, where usually only the better athletes compete together, and the JVs get to muddle it out in their rounds. Few people get hurt that way.

Now this being the other side of the planet, or another latitude for some, things are certainly different, just like the contents of beverages and phone booth instructions (forget it).

Fine. What they did not do,

which any tournament should do, is offer a clinic to explain how this "Norwegian system" works, show basic moves, particularly those of the illegal type, which seems to persist in the performance of some athletes. This creates a learning environment where everyone has a good time ... versus having a broken neck. Once again, pinning SFer Pete Dubois in about a minute was a pleasure. Pinning new pal Louis was a challenge, but I got through it.

So why the soapboxing, Jimbo? You ask. Take your bauble and go have a space cake, you bourgeois poser tourist "Inglishtman."

Sorry, guys. This wasn't all shining happy singlets. Gripe time.

Instead, in the midst of some excellent, beautiful matches between women and men, we had a few over-hyped goal-oriented types choke-holding rookies. There were five injuries: *bodily*, not just the medal fuck up. This would not have happened if athletes, in the double elimination format, had not had to face athletes who were much more aggressive and trained than them, or at least warned of that fact. This is, after all, about Friendship, not competition. Right?

But there being so many language barriers, and, uh, brain matter differences, that did not occur.

Boners and bloopers

Furthering the problem was the failure of referees to account

for the resultant numerous tally errors, since the men who should have reported their dropping-out had left the building, one in a not-upright condition, actually.

But hey, it's a tough sport after all right, and for the 500000000th time, nobody got a boner, at least not the wrestlers.

What did stiffen the hairs on the back of my neck though, was the announcement following my happy victory shower. According to all the mutual wrestlers, Martin of Berlin (and Cirque du Soleil, it seemed) got the gold, Rick "slap-happy" Weeks of SF the silver, and moi, der bronzen.

Let me share with you all the feeling of having had my happy little photo op, knowing I did my absolute best, disinformed, un-happened, and then, watching other wrestlers have the same thing happen.

I was about to hand my camera to an old New York pal for that Kodak moment. Imagine my sur-



C. Dartnell/PhotoGraphics

Nobody got a boner, at least not the wrestlers.

bucket of pig blood dumped on her head?"

After the general barrage of media had swarmed off down the hall for the finals in powerlifting (San Francisco's Luke Cotrell did excellently, I believe. The results of

world to examine this. The expansive nature of this mega-event makes for a lot of opportunities for FUBARHOFFENS. Who knows how many people are going home medal-less simply because somebody fucked up?

Changing the system of competition from FILA-sanctioned double-elimination to round robin – without any advance notice – means confusion. It means everybody has to wrestle everybody else. This is not always a good thing. Certainly it means inclusiveness, and by the end of the day everybody got to know each other.

Gold medalist New York-based Mike Ognibello (who sported a smashing Bosnia Herzegovina singlet in tribute to his pals from a recent few years spent in Sarajevo, who came to cheer him on) said it bluntly, "I smell like four different guys!"

And while showers were convenient, so were a trio of pesky photographers who seemed to think that they deserved to photograph us *al裸*.

"The locker room is for athletes only," I curtly said, knowing full well that the wraith of a creature with the zoom lens already saw dollar signs for his NUDE GAY GAMES WRESTLERS website. In fact, while checking my e-mail and writing this, I already received spam for exactly the same concept.

"How do you know I'm not an athlete?" he snipped, his camera poised.

"You don't smell like one."

He refused to leave. I did.

But back to the match, and not the invasive phalanx of cameras, none of which offered pictures or requested the right to use our images for their various for-profit, no doubt, videos and erotic coffee table calendars. Among them Tom Bianchi, who was shooting for the Official Souvenir Booklet, which should be available, hopefully gratis to every single participant in Gay Games. I'd say the funding for this could easily be gotten from the pockets of former Gay Games Managing Director Marc Janssens before he hightailed it to Switzerland to lock himself in his private bank account! (Oops, too late: He's already disappeared.)

And speaking of gillden, or bronzen, after the cheerful awards ceremony, 45 minutes of arguing led to a final admittance of the mistakes, this after the media also left the building. How convenient.

To sum up, all is not well in Lilliput. ▼

prise at hearing the name of the man I defeated stepping up to the makeshift podium and gleefully accepting the bauble for which we all came to grasp.

Stunned, I almost departed in shock. But then I came across another grappler who had a similar glazed look in his eye. He described it well. "You know that scene where Carrie White gets the

sports have yet to be tallied in English, but I expect those sometime in 1999.

Come total time, no less than five wrestlers were given the wrong medals, including Golden Gate pappa coach Gene Dermody and a strapping gentleman from the UK.

Even though I and other athletes reminded them ... they forgot. The referee forgot to do that something odd yet necessary ritual of bringing the winning wrestler out, and holding his hand up to show he defeated the absent opponent.

Ooops.

What the refs and officials didn't forget was to find the time, immediately after we got it all straightened out, set to speak, to crack open four bottles of wine and light up cigarettes, *in the gym!* Yes, fans, booze and gay sports go hand in hand the Dutch way, except of course, Heineken, who would have nothing to do with Gay Games. But light up a spliff or pump a little GHB and you're outta there, queen!

FUBARHOFFEN

Major point: four wrestlers were quite injured. Athletic ability ranged from shy novice (some American and Dutch guys, all quite nice, but rattled after being flattened by the affable yet obviously chemically-enhanced ... Asian competitors.)

Due to the refs having forgotten to add forfeits, or else due to a confusion of names, or perhaps due to the availability of controlled substances which, had I known I would not have received a random drug test, I would have gladly partook of, things got way FUBARHOFFEN. (Fucked Up Beyond Any Reason-hoffen.)

The Norwegian system, it seems, has more to do with the elements of chance than actual skill on the mat.

I'm only honing in on my own experience since the disinformation of skating, swimming and other blunders may not make it to *The Friendship Daily*, our little newspaper here in It's a Gay World After All, but it will certainly make it to the pages of this little fag rag.

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For the record, Jim Provenzano won the bronze medal in 76.k men's freestyle wrestling, 35 & over.

Ritonavir problems continue

by Bob Roehr

The veil of secrecy surrounding problems with the protease inhibitor ritonavir (trade name Norvir) continues in place by its manufacturer Abbott Laboratories. The company announced on July 27 that it had "encountered an undesired formation of Norvir crystalline structure that affects how the capsule form of Norvir dissolves," said Arthur Higgins, senior vice president for pharmaceutical operations.

Crystallization also occurs in the liquid form of the product, but keeping it at room temperature and shaking the bottle will re-dissolve them and not affect drug function. The capsules will

not be produced until the problem is resolved. Abbott expects that supplies of capsules will begin to run out at pharmacies by the middle of August.

Some AIDS advocates fear that switching to the liquid form of ritonavir will adversely affect compliance. First, a bottle of liquid is more difficult to carry than a pill, so dosing might not occur on the recommended schedule. Second, even the company admits that the product tastes awful. One PWA described it as "tasting like carburetor fluid." However, another prefers the liquid because with the capsule, the drug "explodes in your stomach."

Kiyoshi Kuromiya, a Philadelphia treatment advocate who closely followed the FDA approval

of all four protease drugs, said that Abbott has always been extremely secretive with their product. "They got it through with full licensure with an absolute minimum of data on anything" made public. "Merck was much better on being open about it."

Kuromiya has had conversations with a chemist who does not believe that we will see Norvir capsules again. That could lead to problems with what Abbott sees as their follow-up on drug, ABT-578, said an official at the FDA, speaking on background. The company had been planning to combine the new drug with ritonavir in a single pill.

Protease and pregnancy

An unexpected number of premature births led the National

Institutes of Health (NIH) on July 22 to suspend enrollment of pregnant women in protease inhibitor trials. The initial data came from a Swiss birth registry and was presented at the Geneva AIDS conference. It showed a third of the women having premature births who were on combination therapy, some of which included protease inhibitors.

A quick survey of Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group (PACTG) protocol 354 showed three of five births to be premature. That trial used Norvir as the protease inhibitor. Other trials did not show that pattern. But in all cases, the numbers were small. The Swiss data was based upon 30 pregnancies, while the American safety trials each had 10 or fewer patients.

Several analyses were quickly conducted and presented at the semiannual ACTG meeting in Washington on August 2. Dr. Audrey Rogers, an epidemiologist at the NIH National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, looked at 455 pregnancy outcomes in the database of an American Pregnancy Registry.

She concluded, "The clinical data shows little difference between the mono and combination groups, or with use of PIs [protease inhibitors]. She urged that data analysis "must control for the effects of CD4 counts and clinical status" of the mother in reaching conclusions.

Enrollment criteria for the trials have been tightened and enrollment will resume shortly. ▼

Gay Games

◀ page 1

a gilder just to take a piss in a toilet at "Friendship Village."

Some athletes, however, are not so happy.

On Monday, officials canceled the major event, skating, after selling several hundred tickets to the public and the press. Many Bay Area skaters were left in tears after the overlords of Gay Games 1998 Amsterdam curtly told the athletes planning to compete in all ranks of ice dancing, pairs and singles, that the event would not be recognized by the international governing body, the ISU (International Skating Union). By Tuesday, the charges and counter-charges were flying, with the ISU and Gay Games officials each blaming the other for the cancellation.

Gay Games Media Director Paul van Yperen accurately identified the cancellation as "a tragedy," but failed to claim responsibility or identify the culprit. Other Federation of Gay Games officials, who basked in the glory of the Opening Ceremonies as Israeli transsexual Dana International electrified the crowd, have been conspicuously unavailable at subsequent press conferences where they might have to answer questions more probing than "Where can I get Dana International's CDs?"

The exception would be Dave Anderson of Denver, a longtime Federation member, who switched quickly to "official mode" when asked about the cancellation. "We feel for those athletes," he said. "It's an unfortunate situation."

Van Yperen echoed the sentiments: "All those people who

came from all over the world, these people who are now discriminated by the union: I hope the ISU will support them, and give them the right to do this event." However, soon after, the ISU announced Gay Games had never even contacted the union about official sanctioning, a charge Gay Games has denied.

Although many of the athletes have suppressed their outrage for the sake of gay solidarity, or just good manners, their complaints are piling up. Lawsuits may follow, it seems, with one Florida skater already faxing his lawyer. Many skaters have considered packing up and going home, although the usual response from the hotels has been: "Too bad about that pre-paid room. No, sorry, no refunds. Have a nice day, friend!"

What's next?

Janssen's disappearance and the skating cancellations haven't been the only areas of contention: swimmers are unhappy that they've been asked to double stack in lanes, and the first brisk day of wrestling was tarnished by no less than five medals being given to the wrong grapplers. (For more on this, see Sports Complex, page 22.) Many athletes glumly predict that other snafus will assuredly occur as the week continues, seeing how officials seem less concerned about the sporting events than their own enjoyment of several bottles of wine after competitions.

Most athletes are also annoyed that they must pay for their transportation, workout facilities, and even drinking water at some sports facilities. One angry competitor, taking note that the athletes are the Gay Games' biggest attraction, asked: Does Mickey

Mouse have to pay to drink the water at Disneyland?

Others mentioned that they had a problem with the fact that although Heineken, the largest beer manufacturer in Holland, refused to associate itself at all with Gay Games, the homos dancing all night to bouncy Dutch polkas had no problem at all drinking it.

Unlike Heineken, however, most of the locals like gays and lesbians – especially those with wallets. By Monday, the B.A.R. had spoken with four tourists (from Germany, Ireland, and the U.S.) who had lost their wallets in the teeming masses of celebrants in the Leidseplein.

Despite Van Yperen's assurance

that the Dutch "do not even use the word homophobic," he did have to admit that of course there are those who can act homophobic. Walking around with a team uniform has been akin to wearing a "Big Fag Tourist" T-shirt. The comments, while in Dutch, were nevertheless obvious: "Check out the queers."

On the positive side, although spectators have been heard making comments ranging from "It's too bad" (referring to the swimming overcrowding), to "We were cheated" (a British trackster who could not find a schedule of when her teammates were competing), to "That muscle Mary got sacked by a fat queen" (a wrestling

match), most of them seem to be having a good time. The local press, too, is reporting on the events as though each one was an unqualified success. Such positive reporting even extended to the gay pride parade, a sort of watery Mardi Gras through the canals, even though it started two hours late. Amsterdam reporters seem to be extremely impressed by the number of lucrative Gay Games sponsorships and the economic boon of all those corporations seeking to woo the tourist gilder with diamond (rainbow colors?) T-shirts and the usual booths laden with gay-themed trinkets.

Welcome to Netherland. ▼

Viagra and you

◀ page 21

blood level of Viagra may get higher in people taking protease inhibitors, because their livers can't clear Viagra from the blood as fast. To avoid side effects associated with overly high blood levels of Viagra, start at the lowest dose, 25 milligrams. As long as there are no adverse side effects, subsequent doses of Viagra can be increased to 50 milligrams, then to 100 milligrams if these higher dosages are needed to improve erections.

It is important for persons with HIV/AIDS and their health care providers to know that Viagra does not lower blood levels of protease inhibitors. If anything,

Viagra will cause a small temporary increase in the blood levels of protease inhibitors (which does not lead to resistance and is unlikely to produce side effects). Therefore no change in the dose of protease inhibitors is recommended.

Safer Viagra use

Many other medications are also cleared by the same liver enzyme system used by Viagra and protease inhibitors. Whenever you receive a new prescription for Viagra (or any medication), please be sure to let your health provider know the names of all your treatments, so that together you can make an informed decision as to if and how you can take Viagra safely. ▼



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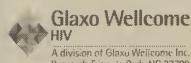
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'Gay Travels: A Literary Companion,'
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Mile High Mr. Marcus

The Leather One returns
from Denver with dish.

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Dance at Filipino Expo

'Labayen Dances/SF' at
the Cowell Theatre.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 32 • 6 August 1998

**Eddie Izzard brings his
seriously silly comedy to SF**

Bleach-blond bloke

by Richard Dodds

You could say Ziggy Stardust meets Monty Python in Eddie Izzard, who may well be the hottest heterosexual transvestite comic in the world. He's wowed them in London, Paris, New York, and even Reykjavik, but he knows that in San Francisco he'll be starting from scratch.

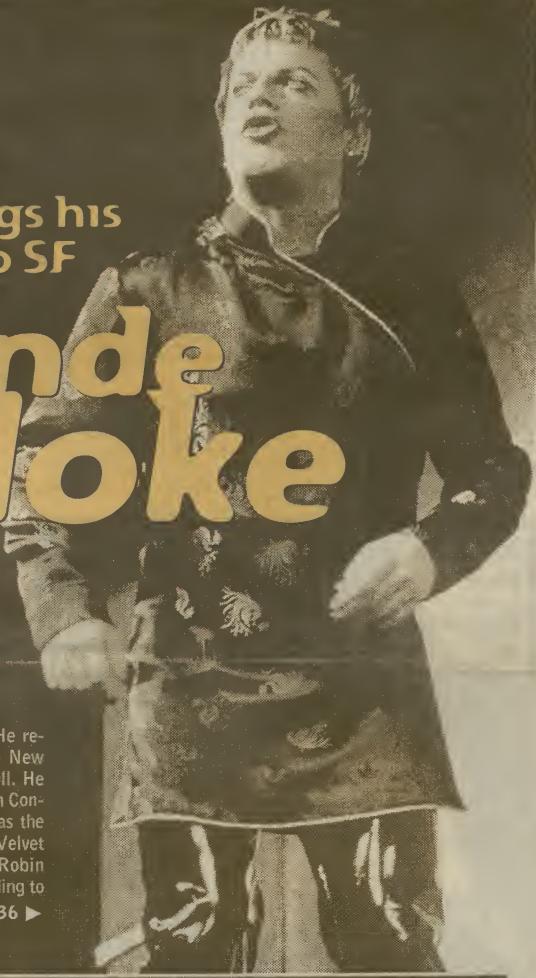
"It's an ego-flattening situation, but that's good," Izzard said by phone from London. "It's good for you to have people say, 'We don't know who the hell you are,' so you have to prove it all again. It keeps my feet on the ground when I start getting carried away with stupid notions."

It wasn't that many years ago that Izzard was working as a street performer in London, wondering if his off-center sense of humor would

ever find an audience beyond the tourists he could corral in Covent Garden. "The '80s," he said, "were my crap period." But he felt his schtick starting to click around 1990, and for the past five years, he's been piling one success on top of another.

Instead of the streets, Izzard now plays theaters in London's West End. He recently completed an acclaimed run in New York with his one-man show *Dress to Kill*. He will soon be seen on the big screen as Sean Connery's henchman in *The Avengers* and as the shifty manager of a glam-rock band in *Velvet Goldmine*. And his newest fan is Robin Williams, so taken with the world according to

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It's a raver's life

by Mark Mardon

It's around 5:30 a.m. Sunday, July 26, close to sunrise in San Francisco's South of Market district, and Freaky Chakra is going wild. His stand-up mop of black curls thrashes to the thunderous beat he's creating. His fingers move deftly across synthesizer panels and mixing boards. He pops a sampler button and tweaks a knob, and suddenly the bass plummets an octave, high notes go shrieking everywhere, and the floor seems to drop out of the room. Everyone dancing feels under the influence, their minds zooming off into space.

Chakra's pure dope. Everybody at Vibrator gets high off him, especially the guy dancing directly in front of the right speaker, facing the sound. He's

Aaron Schirmer, 28, promoter and mastermind of Vibrator, who persuaded techno-master Chakra to do his first-ever live sunrise set, tailored for Vibrator, the already legendary rave born a mere five years ago in San Diego.

Even more dope is Mark E. Quark, Schirmer's friend and the DJ whose early-morning vinyl spinning set Vibrator ablaze. Everybody felt the energy, deep down and all around. Quark's mixes went over the top, magnetically drawing people to the speakers and turntable setup. Schirmer's core group of friends moved close en masse, swept into the groove. Quark was setting loose the incendiary progressive house sounds that most signify what Schirmer wants Vibrator to be all about:

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Rave promoter
Aaron Schirmer

Marc Geller

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by Roberto Friedman and
 the Capplethwaite Factor

Many Out There readers have wondered whatever happened to Portia and Sophie Capplethwaite, the bubbly sisters who regularly appeared in the column but then disappeared without explanation. Well, Portia is finally out of detox, and Sophie was expelled from the fat farm (for smuggling eclairs onto the grounds), and the two celebrated their return to San Francisco society at the effervescent benefit cabaret held last Thursday night at Café du Nord for Supervisor Extraordinaire Tom Ammiano.

Appropriately titled "Tom Tom Club," the event channeled the bohemian energies that once reigned supreme in this town but which have been threatened with extinction by downtown developers, real estate speculators, the triumph of the yuppie class, a buffoon of a mayor, a somnolent board of supervisors, and a drive to assimilation that has turned a disturbing number of local gay men into steroid-addicted Stepford wives. The idea was that only Tom can keep the city safe for Bohemia. Everyone dug through the deepest recesses of their closets to find old berets, none looking more dashing than photographer

Marc Geller, a member of the host committee. The crowd was filled with hipsters of various genders and generations. Phatima, in hennaed bangs and beatnik black, proved, like Agnes Gooch, that she had a bust, not to mention a waist, after all. Semi-retired clubster Greg Taylor unfortunately couldn't keep quiet, even though he was dressed as a mime.

The entertainment was a smorgasbord of gay cabaret with the usual number of fellow travelers, prime among them Ms. Connie Champagne, in a cute red sweater and matching beret. Veronica Klaus supplied the req-



Tom Ammiano, thrilled to be the center of attention at Tom Tom Club

Marc Geller

uisite amount of old-fashioned glamour, and Leigh Crow, "the artist formerly known as Elvis Herselvis," appeared with paste-on goatee and painted a '50s-style abstract painting onstage after she sang her song.

Later, The Steve Lady terrified the crowd by lip-synching to Batshiva's "Hate" segment. (There are aspects of '50s culture that might be better left in the past, reflected Portia.) But a new group, Impala Discobar, two young

stingers dressed like stylish, early '60s middle-aged women, lip-synched to Kurt Weill songs — in German. They were so weird, the crowd went insane. (Sophie thought they were doing Schoenberg's *Erwartung*!) True Bohemia survives into another generation.

The highlight of the evening was, of course, Arturo Galster, who appeared très chic as Chesty Baker. She serenaded the happy supervisor with songs rewritten to celebrate his achievements. Sophie and Portia agreed that "The Lady Is A Tramp" will never be the same for them again.

Then the charming Mr. Ammiano took the stage himself, reminding the crowd that Mrs. Frank Riggs had a Ph.D. (Pentecostal hairdo), and worrying that maybe sometimes Willie B. wore his Borsalino too tight. Portia particularly liked his description of Willie's Bay Bridge policy — that it's a waste to rebuild it when everyone should just walk across the water like he does — since Portia had had similar fantasies during her drinking days.

What can you say about a man running for the Presidency of the Board of Supervisors at whose benefit a spontaneous auction was set up for a peek at a man's pierced penis? That he's our last best chance to preserve our endangered way of life, that's what!



Overblown?

Back, Flackula!

Speaking of matters Bohemian, the Village Voice's veteran columnist Michael Musto is surely the boho patron saint of gossip columnists everywhere, precisely because he won't take any size, style, or shade of crap from a flack. In a recent column he trashed the increasingly irrelevant *Advocate* for its "multiple advance blowing of *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*" — a position that film's overhyping publicists and promotions people were rabid for us to take, as well — and related the following anecdote, one that publicity perpetrators would do well to memorize and recite every morning with the cuppa joe and the bran muffin: "This calls to mind a chilling recent incident when a PR lady said to me, 'Well, you did do a good job interviewing [Starlet A] for us, so I guess we'll let you do [Starlet B].' Wait — shouldn't those words be uttered by editors?"

Touché, Mike Musto. As for *Billy's Kiss*, considering that one of its co-stars (the one we're supposed to slobber over) made a big point of telling the straight press that he's straight, and the other wouldn't even admit to the gay

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Veronica Klaus



Arturo Galster

Jim James



The Steve Lady gets carried away while Ivana holds down the chair

Marc Geller

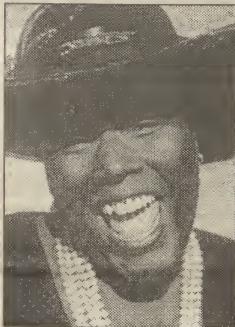
THEATRE

Afro Solo-a-go-go

by Deborah Peifer

The Afro Solo Festival was created because, as founder Thomas Robert Simpson explains: "We wanted to tell our stories the way we wanted them to be told. We want to communicate to one another as well as to the larger community, to foster respect and better understanding, to bridge the gaps which still exist between us. The festival provides a forum for that to happen. It has become a community celebration of African-American art, culture, intellect, and entertainment." This year is the fifth festival, and "the range of talent is exquisite, fully reflecting," as Simpson describes it, "the diversity of who we are."

Eleven solo artists are the heart of the festival, using theatre, dance, music, spoken word, and mixed media to explore and celebrate African-American stories.



Alison Wright

The performers include Alison Wright in *Kidnapped in Paris*, the story of a young college graduate traveling in Europe who falls in love with a lesbian jazz singer; Deborah Edwards in *From Whores to Matriarchs: Black Women Survivors on the Edge*; and David Tigner singing a tribute to Paul Robeson. The festival is much more than just solo performance, however, with a visual art exhibit, a gala concert featuring Idris Ackamoor, Alfreda Yvette Mitchell, Denise Perrier, and Michael Dolman, workshops on fundraising and audience development, and a scholars symposium. The whole thing kicks off with a party on August 15 at the Z Space Studio, 1360 Mission, also the site of the workshops (August 20, 22, 23) and symposium (August 22). The solo shows take place August 19, 21, and 23 at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida. The gala concert is August 22 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. Call 621-7797 or 978-2787 for reservations. For a detailed schedule of the wonders of the festival, call 346-9344.

Inside peek

We all enjoy a peek backstage, the play within a play, the theatrical piece that raises serious questions about just what is real. Steven Dietz's play *Private Eyes* offers all of that and more in a new production by DreamStackers and Genesius Theatre Company. Director Louis Parnell calls it "a comedy of suspicion, in which the audience must become the private investigators of the title to determine the truth or illusion of the action. Dietz plays mind-games with the audience as the play

within a play within a play unfolds." At any moment, the audience may decide that the whole thing is really taking place in the mind of the main character. Parnell explains that "we use the entire theatre, including the lobby and the concession stand, with entrances from everywhere" in order to involve the audience in the reality of the play, a reality that is called into serious question when walls disappear and stagehands play "stagehands." *Private Eyes* runs through September 5 at Actors Theatre, 533 Sutter. Call 675-4796 for tickets.

The truth told

Sometimes a great thinker expresses an eternal truth so perfectly that it changes lives. So it was when Quentin Crisp uttered this verity: "Never dust. After four years it doesn't get any worse." Anyone who has been to my house knows that I take this profound sentiment to heart. Crisp (*The Naked Civil Servant, Resident Alien*), "one of the stately homos of England," brings his one-man celebration of thoughts scathing and observations witty to Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street, for three nights only, August 14-16. Call 861-5079 for reservations.

On the run

A *Shayna Maidel*, Barbara Lebow's heart-rending tale of one family's Holocaust experience, runs at Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy, through August 15. *Oleanna*, David Mamet's boy's-eye view of sexual harassment, runs at Exit Theatre through August 22. Call 673-3847 for tickets to both.

Karen Williams and Danny Williams, two of the funniest people named Williams that I've ever seen, appear at Josie's August 13-16. Call 861-7933 for reservations.

Nothing beats jazz, unless it's jazz al fresco. Stern Grove closes its 1998 season with the Kronos Quartet and Joe Henderson on August 16 at 2 p.m. Call 252-6252 for info.

Word For Word performs short stories by Eudora Welty and John Sayles at Magic Theatre (Fort Mason, Building D) through August 16. Call 441-3687.

As You Like It, the greatest romantic comedy ever written, runs through September 5 at the California Shakespeare Festival, Bruns Memorial Amphitheater in Orinda. Call (510) 548-9666 for tickets and directions.

42nd Street Moon continues its "Delicious Dames of Broadway" series with the Gershwin musical *Girl Crazy*, at New Conservatory Theatre through August 23. NCT is located at 25 Van Ness. Call 861-8972.

For good causes

If your idea of a great time includes flamenco, don't miss *Caminos Flamencos*, August 13-14, when 45 flamenco dancers, singers and musicians come together for two glorious nights of the passion of Spanish dance. Proceeds benefit the Breast Cancer Fund. The shows are at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. If your wallet feels too full, you can join the artists for a post-show reception. Those tickets are \$100 and also benefit the Breast Cancer Fund. Call 978-2787.

August 19 is "Husky Hve Kusetsa" ("A Funny Night"), to benefit the African AIDS Network, featuring comics Karen

Ripley, Amma, Tom Ammiano and others, hosted by Joan Jett Blakk, at Josie's Cabaret. Call 861-7933 for reservations. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a performative nature, send them to dpeifer@delphi.com, or via snail mail to the B.A.R.



Lisa Paulsen and Jeff Cummings in Shakespeare's As You Like It

Mary Solt

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Gary Smith

Testing Tristan

by Timothy Pfaff

If Ben Heppner harbored any ideas that he would make the most challenging role debut of his career — *Tristan* in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* — in the relative obscurity of Seattle, those hopes were dashed at the unveiling of Seattle Opera's new production of the opera last Saturday. The Canadian tenor has for years represented the Great White Hope for the Wagnerian Heldentenor,

one of Earth's demonstrably endangered creatures, and the opera world has wagered big that Heppner is the singer with the voice, intelligence, musicality and sheer stamina to take on *Tristan* at a time when it has often appeared the piece could no longer be cast. So it came to him.

What it got for its trouble was a *Tristan* of predictable (and, even with the high expectations, prepossessing) beauty, intelligence, and musicality, plus modified confidence, questionable stamina, and uncertain promise. Make no mistake: there walks not a mortal who could sing a better or more thoughtful *Tristan* than Heppner delivered Saturday. There is no longer any question whether Heppner can sing *Tristan*, just some rather more nagging ones about whether he should.

The question was begged by Seattle Opera General Director Speight Jenkins' post-dress-rehearsal decision to cut some 13 minutes of *Tristan*'s music from opening night — cuts neither unprecedented nor particularly egregious, and promised to be restored in later performances (Heppner continues in the role through August 22, when Gary Lakes takes over for the final two performances on the 25th and 28th). It was reinforced by the tenor's equally time-honored decision to save himself for *Tristan*'s grueling third act, an unalloyed musical and dramatic triumph on Saturday.

So, while not an unconsidered word or note passed Heppner's lips throughout the entire performance, and *Tristan*'s music was rendered with surpassing beauty, there was holding back verging on blankness in the equally critical second act, with its prolonged and ecstatic love duet. The question is merely whether Heppner has the vocal reserves to deliver the killer role whole — and sing it without detriment to the other roles in which he has proved himself to be the world's master. We simply need this singer too badly elsewhere to make his *Tristan* a do-or-die priority.

The concern was only highlighted by the magisterial first-ever complete *Isole* of Jane Eaglen, who matched Heppner inflection for inflection in her equally demanding role, and gave notice of the very reserves of power that allowed her to go from strength to strength in a perfor-

mance that never stinted on easy vocal power or resourceful dramatic specificity. Eaglen, who has sung the *Walküre Brünnhilde* in San Francisco and will sing all three Brünnhildes in our forthcoming *Ring*, has given musically secure performances that have lacked dramatic weight. But Saturday she made it clear that, like Heppner, she has investigated this new role to its corners. Gratefully, she also made it sound like she could sing it again the next day.

This was not an overwhelmingly erotic *Tristan* in the ordinary sense. Seeing singers of this pair's girth physically grapple with one of the greatest love duets in all of opera brought its share of reminders of the way things used to be in Wagner productions. Fortunately, there was a concomitant sense of the vocal "good old days" to offset some of the inevitable clumsiness.

Gratifyingly, Heppner and Eaglen were not shouldering the whole vocal burden. Michelle DeYoung's vivid, vocally sumptuous and dramatically alert Brangäne raised the usual questions about why we only see her on the Symphony side of Grove Street, and Greer Grimsley's trenchant, sympathetic Kurwenal was a good match for her. And even though Peter Rose sang the most baritonal King Marke of my experience, any lack of bass resonance was more than offset by his richly affecting singing.

While Armin Jordan hardly proposed any startling new interpretations from the orchestra pit (and made some puzzling tempo choices), the fact that his cast seemed secure with him counted for a lot in this high-profile premiere. Francesca Zambello's joke-and-effect-laden production proved more problematic. Playing Act I like *Titanic II* was a serious miscalculation, and its mincing sailors on the main deck and the red-lit rowing hunks below provided unwelcome comic relief to an opera that scarcely asks for it. Since set and costume designer Alison Chitty and lighting designer Mimi Jordan Sherrin were just doing what they were told, it's too bad their work looked like budget versions of other *Tristans* one could name.

On the other hand, with a scary-looking *Tristan* on the War Memorial boards this fall, lovers of the piece have no choice but to get to Seattle pronto. ▼

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DANCE

Labayen Dance/SF

Dance with a Philippine soul

by Aimée Ts'ao

The other day I was an unwilling listener to a radio program which played a variety of music from around the world. One piece started out with some intricate African rhythms and chanting done in a more cosmopolitan vein, then somehow mysteriously shifted into a jazzy blues riff, eventually coming back to the original material. While it is important for art forms to change, assimilate and evolve, I want for it to be done in a discriminating way which emphasizes the unique qualities of the root material and incorporates the new in a manner that enhances, not detracts from it. I also want to hear the authentic, traditional music of a culture (at least as uncorrupted as is practicable in these times.) As has been noted by many others before, the speed and relentlessness of foreign invasion into most cultures threaten to create a universal culture based on consumerism. Eventually we will all eat burgers, drink Coke, run in Nikes, watch television drivel, listen to homogenized music, and no longer fight wars, as there will be no differences to fight over. Mediocrity breeds content.

So with mixed feelings, I attended the performance of Labayen Dance/SF at Cowell Theater as part of the Fifth Annual Filipino American Arts Exposition, celebrating the Philippine Centennial of Independence from Spain (only to fall under the yoke of United States colonialism until truly liberated in 1946.) It is important that the Bay Area Philippine community honors Enrico Labayen as a member of that community who has founded his own dance company and created many works of contemporary choreography. Labayen was unable to perform due to injury, but he addressed the audience briefly before the first piece. He wanted to be acknowledged as a choreographer with a Philippine soul, and said that his work grew out of all his experience, not just that of his heritage. Whatever the resulting work, he said, "I am not trying to be Filipino, I am Filipino."

Of the four of Labayen's works on the program, *Another Butterfly* and *Puirt A Beul* were the strongest. The latter was a real crowd-pleaser, as well as a recipient of an Isadora Duncan Award. In it, Labayen has managed both the overall structural composition and the gestural details very well. Besides giving the dancers an opportunity to have some fun, the piece's fast pacing keeps the audience engaged. Wendy Brooke replaced Labayen in *Another Butterfly*, which was dramatically lit by José Ma. Francos. Danced to the aria "Un bel di" from Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, this piece visually evokes emotions and ideas beyond what most singers can do vocally. It is a compliment to this piece that I have difficulty expressing my reactions verbally, as dance is a nonverbal form of communication, and has succeeded here.

Nontransferable

The premiere of *Songs* fared less well. In this case, the lieder of Shubert did not lend themselves easily as the basis for the chore-

ography. Often the disparity between the steps and the music was annoying. The dancers acquitted themselves in lovely costumes by Domini Lemire Elmore,

and Laura Bernasconi's fluidity and joyful expression stood out in particular.

From the repertory, *Cold Fish* would have been better left in the

deep freeze. The lighting successfully created an underwater ambience, but the movement did not consistently do so. Too little material stretched too thin caused several audience members to flee and the man next to me to fall asleep.

Laura Bernasconi showed off her talents in both classical ballet and Indian classical dance in *At Shiva's Feet*, which she also choreographed. When I saw her perform this at Brady Street Dance Centre, the nuances did not get lost in its intimate space, while I had to strain to catch all the subtle facial expressions at the Cowell Theater. Bernasconi has a wonderful ease of movement and a special radiant quality that makes it a pleasure to watch her dance, even though the piece itself could use some editing.

The difficulties of having a guest choreographer were evident only at the end of Yannis Adoniou's *O! O!* (Please find another title, this is unpronounceable. Vi-

sually interesting, but hard to have to describe each time in conversation.) Despite beautiful stage design and costumes by Jennifer Trammel, the choreography was oddly constricted, until the last of three sections, in which Nicole Bonadonna danced a beautiful solo. Then I realized that for the usual reasons of not enough rehearsal time and being too ingrained with the movement vocabulary of the other choreographer, the dancers had not been able to perform the steps with the feeling and texture desired by their creator. Hopefully, some time in the future I will get to revisit this piece in the form Adoniou intended.

Overall, Labayen uses elements from the entire gamut of his life in dance. He should continue to refine and develop the combinations which are successful, rethink or drop the ones that do not work, and not be afraid to discover that his heritage may be more important than he thinks. ▀



Dancer Shaun Rouse lifts Enrico Labayen in Labayen Dance

Marty Sohl

**"AS HOT AS EVER!"
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-Steven Winn, San Francisco Chronicle



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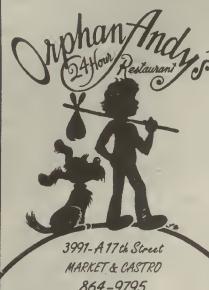
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by Victoria A. Brownworth

In these dog days of August, the tube is a cultural desert. The only new prime time programming: news magazines and infomercials. Well, and the not-so-exciting season premiere of *Melrose Place*. Where would that show be without Heather Locklear? On permanent hiatus, we think. The most exciting episode of *MP* lately was Hunter Tylo's court battle with Aaron Spelling.

We find the "new to you" pitch from NBC amusing, but only a lobotomy could make us watch reruns of *Friends* or *Veronica's Closet*. Frances Farmer we're not. We don't care how many queers work on these shows or how many misguided people nominated them for Emmys. Perhaps we should invest in cable after all, if only to stave off the summer TV doldrums. Oh, and to keep up with whatever "news" CNN invented this week, of course.

Sadly, channel surfing is the closest we get to anything resembling even a metaphorical beach (that and *Baywatch*). Thus as we surfed the summer pipeline, we found ourselves watching commercials. (No, not infomercials. We did that last week. Karen Valentine actually is holding up pretty well, but has Vicki Lawrence lost her mind plugging that bizarre Latin queen Walter Mercado and his psychic network? This guy looks like a cross — and we do mean cross — between Sally Jessy Raphael and Billy Graham. We haven't seen so much purple satin since the circus.)

Yes, we have been reduced to pretending we work for *Consumer Reports*. We blame the heat. We discovered quite a few subliminal messages emanating from the tube, however, and we weren't even wearing our aluminum headgear. We admit an unreserved passion for pussies. So when Tidy Cat unveiled its new commercial for multi-cat litter last week, we were captivated.

As our readers know, we love talking pussies more than visitors to a Thai strip joint. So imagine this scene: Adorned in black leather collars we remember purchasing for a few pussies

of our own, two young male cats chat while staring at a package of cat litter. (You didn't know Mr. Marcus had anything to do with pussies, did you?) A tiny gray kitten, also wearing the *de riguer* leather gear, plays with a noisy ball in the background.

Cat #1. What do you think of this new Tidy Cat litter? Cat #2: I think it's a gimmick. Cat #1: It's for multi-cat households. Cat #2: One cat with a really large bladder.

Acerbic banter between the two ensues. Cat #1 turns and admonishes Kitten: Will you cut that out? Kitten meows plaintively as Cat #1 mutters: I thought I hid that ball. Cat #2 comments: You know what this means? Cat #1: No, what? Cat #2: More roommates.

Enter the person of the house. Cat #1: Quick, act like a cat. Cat #1 climbs a scratching post and asks: Do I look fat when I do this? Cat #2: It's all about you, isn't it?

Now, we have a multi-cat household ourselves, but our cats never engage in this sort of repartee, nor do they wear leather gear. Nor do they ever comment on each other's abilities at water sports. And may we reiterate: These Tidy Cats are *male* cats, not female Fran Drescher-esque bitchfest cats. The only men we know who talk like this are, well, *très* gay. Perhaps these cats have been hanging out with *Sabrina*'s fey Salem. Or perhaps Tidy Cat is looking for an encoded way into the queer market. What's next, rainbow litter?

Butch bar

This isn't the only queerish commercial we've noted of late. A similarly-toned commercial for Special K cereal shows butch guys hanging out at a bar (no women in sight), where they make comments like, "Does this T-shirt make me look fat?" Are we supposed to believe straight men care about this? Has anyone looked at straight men recently? We've seen fewer spare tires at the local junkyard.

The "everybody loves fruit" underwear ads for Fruit of the Loom speak for themselves. Fruit and underwear said *queer* to us even before Calvin Klein. Speaking of fruits, our fave Olympian, Picabo Street, the spokesdyke, we

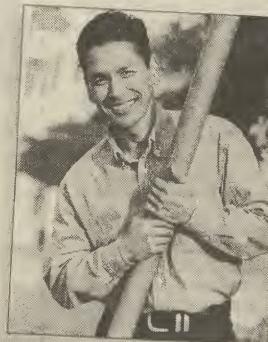
meant to say spokesperson for Chapstick, has her own encoded commercials. This being summer, she *schlusses* through sand on a blazing hot day to announce, "I'm not a lipstick girl, I'm a Chapstick girl." Yes, dear, we noticed that in Nagano.

The heat and reruns haven't stymied the tube talkfest, which is really no different in repeat than first-run — except for the fluctuations in Ricki Lake's weight. *Jerry Springer* still leads the pack with his three-way shows. Who knew there were so many strippers and exotic dancers with lesbian tendencies? Maybe *Showgirls* was *cinema vérité*. Politically Incorrect host Bill Maher, an avowed libertarian (read neo-con) was, pardon the pun, queried about why he incessantly talks about the Republican Party and gays. Maher responded, "It's in the news a lot because the Christian Right talks about homosexuality more than they do down at The Ramrod." Too true.

And on a creepier note, we discovered on *Philly After Midnight* that actress Nancy Cartwright, the voice of Bart Simpson, is raising her children in the Church of Scientology. She believes everyone should start their own Scientology girl or boy scout troop. This might finally get the religious right off our backs, when kids are getting their merit badges from L. Ron Hubbard. Ay carumba! Or as the Hindus say, Don't have a cow, man!

And finally, the Emmy nods were announced last week. Only six people of color made the cut, and not a single black show (don't the Emmy judges watch the WB?). But several queerish nominees made it, notably our gal Ellen for best actress in a comedy series. Also, Armistead Maupin's *More Tales of the City* for best mini-series (take that, PBS), and Olympia Dukakis for best actress in *More Tales*. Gloria Reuben, for best supporting actress, deserves to win for her role in *ER* that has brought HIV/AIDS into living rooms every week. Angelina Jolie was nominated as best actress for her role in the lesbian drama *Gia* on HBO, and Phil Hartman, posthumously, for his role on *NewsRadio*.

When the Emmys are announced next year, we hope to see a little more color in the nominations — including a lot more lavender. ▼

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MUSIC

Charming at the Cinegrill

by Jim Van Buskirk

Even if you can't quite recall Christine Ebersole, chances are you have seen her. Perhaps it is because this talented comic actress is so versatile that she almost disappears into each of her many stage, film, and television roles. Beginning on *Saturday Night Live* in the mid-70s, she has appeared in films like *Amadeus*, as the stripper Tessie Tura in *Bette Midler's version of Gypsy*, and as Macaulay Culkin's mom in *Richie Rich*. On Broadway, she has starred in *Oklahoma*, *Camelot*, and *Getting Away with Murder*, Stephen Sondheim's latest non-musical venture.

Now Ms. Ebersole is doing something she's wanted to do for a long time: a cabaret act. I caught her performance last year at the Cinegrill at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. This venerable hotel on Hollywood Boulevard is where the first Academy Awards were publicly presented, and the Cinegrill is one of the best cabaret rooms in the country, right up there with our own Plush Room. This elegant venue was perfect for Ebersole's cabaret debut. Wearing a black ostrich feather hat, long black gloves, a chic little black dress, and sipping at a gigantic martini, Ebersole herself was the epitome of sophistication. The show was recorded, so that you can now share the excitement of the evening on CD (*Christine Ebersole: Live at the Cinegrill*, Wailing Records). Tightened to a fast 59 minutes, the album brilliantly captures this charming chanteuse *in situ*.

From the moment Ebersole begins, you know you've never experienced anyone quite like her. Her rapid-fire patter is sweetly sincere and simultaneously self-mocking as she weaves a personal thread through her eclectic material. Her heartfelt stories gently poke fun at herself, her family, and Los Angeles. How she manages to maintain this precarious balance is a mystery, but it's apparent the lady's in control, so you can sit back, relax, and enjoy the wonderful ride.

Whether it's novelty numbers like "Shanghai" with which she opens the show, or the tongue-twisting "No Doubt About It," Eber-

sole makes each song her own. Her amazing ability to take us on an emotional roller coaster is vaguely reminiscent of an early Bette Midler, as one minute you're laughing uproariously, and the next you're afraid you're going to begin weeping. If her rendition of Maury Yeston's poignant "New Words," dedicated to her "three miracles," her three adopted children, doesn't bring tears to your eyes, perhaps it will be "Bill," sung to her husband Bill Mahoney, or her masterful interpretation of "The Man that Got Away" that does.

Ebersole accurately introduces "The Animal in the Pit" as "exploring the dark side of fabulous." She later offers a haunting rendition of "My Ship," but "with a twist." The arrangements by her musical director David Snyder are perfectly suited to her talents as he accompanies her on piano, assisted by John Smith on bass and Joe Jewell on guitar. Ebersole's closing number, with which she says she hopes to leave the audience baf-



Christine Ebersole

fled, is a hilarious operatic turn of "Beyond the Blue Horizon" à la Jeanette MacDonald.

But wait, there's more. After Ebersole returns to introduce her first public performance, a brief 1956 recording of herself at the age of three singing "Jingle Bells," she leaves us with two more treasures: Joni Mitchell's classic "The Circle Game" and Frank Loesser's "More I Cannot Wish You."

Rumor has it that Ebersole is hoping to bring this show to the Bay Area. Let's hope those rumors are true. Until then, rush to experience her unique talents on this new recording. ▼

DANCE

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David Allen

The San Francisco Ballet performs highlights from the past season on Sunday, August 9 at 2 p.m. at Stern Grove, 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd. The outdoor performance is free. The program is to include Mark Morris' *Maelstrom*, Balanchine's *Western Symphony*, and two *pas de deux*. Conductors Denis de Coteau and Emil de Cou will lead the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra. For information, call 252-6252. ▼

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Eddie Izzard

Eddie Izzard

▲ Arts cover

Izzard that he is presenting *Dress to Kill* in San Francisco. Not bad for a bloke who likes to wear heels, lipstick, mascara, and perhaps a cute spangly top over a pair of black-vinyl toroeador slacks.

"I know I'm not ever going to be mainstream," he said, perhaps unnecessarily. "I don't think I'll ever be Tim Allen in *Home Improvement*. I'm looking for a more relaxed area of success. I like being able to walk around and not have, 'Oh, it's that guy off the telly.' I like being a we-don't-know-who-you-are-so-bugger-off kind of guy."

Cab competition

Izzard was getting his wish on this particular day in London. He was just starting the interview on a cell phone as he tried to hail a cab. "There's a cab coming up, and I'm going to jump into it and then I'll do the conversation in the cab," he said. "The cab's just coming up... Oh, bloody hell! Some stupid tourists are getting into it. God, old people, I could kill 'em. Sorry."

Izzard did manage to grab the next taxi, and he talked easily as the cab made its way to a film club where he had agreed to introduce the program that evening. Despite his anti-tourist outburst, Izzard is known for his genial, relaxed manner on stage. The material he calls "well-crafted rubbish" has been described by critics as verbal, antic, nutty, dangerously intellectual, and seriously silly. That he performs it in varying degrees of what is usually considered women's garb, surprisingly enough, isn't particularly relevant to his humor.

"My sexuality is obvious," he said. "It's out there, and I'm open about it, but I talk through it as opposed to about it. In the end, my humor is just kind of stupid — stupid and surreal."

Izzard, 36, says he knew he wanted to wear feminine garb as early as age 4, and came out as a transvestite when he was in his early 20s. He began to appear on stage as an "out TV" about six years ago, but he's not trying to pass as a woman, and those expecting a drag show will be totally disappointed. He likes to call himself a "male lesbian."

He also says he "fancies women," and he has been surprised that a number of women seem to fancy him. "I would be very into fancying men, but it hasn't worked in my head yet," Izzard said. "I'm trying to make sure I'm not blocking it, but it just seems the way the chromosomes or whatever work."

I asked Izzard what he was wearing as he cabbed it to the screening. He laughed. "I'm wearing very boy clothes," he said. "Sneakers and jeans and an American baseball kind of top that I picked up in New York. I'm looking very blokey today. It depends on how I feel. It's just like with women, who can wear trousers or they can dress up or they wear more makeup. I'm in an advanced stage of being a TV in the fact that I sometimes can't be bothered to put makeup on, which I think is a very healthy place to be."

The crossdressing, which once had a considerable erotic component for Izzard, has become a bit humdrum. "But I can still decide to dress up sexy, just like women do, at least as sexy as I can get being a bloke and having this kind of tomboy look," he said. "It's a whole new look that I have to carve out for myself. It sort of existed in rock 'n' roll, but then fashion changed. This has to be for the rest of my life."

Extreme TV

As he continues to introduce himself in the United States, Izzard thinks it's important that he wear his distinctive garb on stage and at interviews. "People have an image of extreme TV, and I just turn up like a bloke wearing makeup, and then people get the hang of it. OK, so he's going to look like this, sort of David Bowie-Marc Bolan-esque," and then I just talk my rubbish."

His rubbish was inspired by

the stand-up comedy of Steve Martin and Richard Pryor, and more importantly, by the off-the-wall sketch comedy of Monty Python. John Cleese, a founding member of the fabled troupe and now an Izzard booster, has called the comic "the funniest man in England" in several interviews.

The best thing about Izzard, according to Cleese, is his "extraordinary degree of relaxation" on stage. The weakest, he added, is a penchant for spontaneity that can lead to missteps.

Izzard said he is actually acting when he first arrives on stage appearing so relaxed, "but after I've got 10 minutes under my belt, I know whether I can control it, and I do get that relaxed. It's really beautiful. It's like living on pure oxygen or something."

As for his propensity to veer from the script, Izzard said he wouldn't have it any other way. "I just get bored, and I use the boredom threshold to change the material," he said. "I've adopted this method of jazz comedy, and you've got to allow yourself to be able to crash when you do that."

Despite what he calls a "take no prisoners" approach, his performances are not spiked with anger. "Some people said, 'Oh, America won't like your stuff. You gotta be angry, man, you just gotta hate everything.' The idea of unmitigated fuck this and fuck that is kind of boring. I think you've really got to plumb into your own character."

There was a burst of anger that did make the London papers last year. While waiting for a taxi after a show in Cambridge, Izzard, in make-up, confronted a man who was taunting him. Blows were struck, and Izzard ended up with a bloody lip and a black eye, but he eventually triumphed in court.

"To get my anger going, you've got to be standing in front of me, insulting me for a bit of time," Izzard said. "There's a certain knack to it. You've got to be a bit of a dickhead and just stand there and say shit, and then I'll get angry. But I'm not a very good fighter, so I have to learn some form of martial arts before I can do that again."

Dress to Kill will run at the Cable Car Theatre through Aug. 30. Tickets are \$25 for previews through Aug. 11 and \$25-\$35 thereafter. Call 433-9500.

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COVER STORY

Raver's life

Arts cover

a spiritual healing place, where the mind and body can repair themselves.

Some people find spirituality in nature, others in monasteries and ashrams. Schirmer finds his path to expanded consciousness — even the key to sustaining his life — right in front of the speaker, his whole being saturated with noise, as he dances ecstatically among the members of his tribe, flailing his arms and swaying trance-like to rapid-fire electronic rhythms and sound samples.

"Vibrator is where I can free my mind and let go of my life's problems and just be in that realm of beauty, just be out there, dancing and raving, separated from AIDS, from all the problems that come with living on this planet, everything. I just dance and let my body move and the music take me."

New religion

If Vibrator is Schirmer's church, raves are his religion. Indeed, raves are where a host of Bay Area youth — gays and straights, women and men together — go these days to transcend themselves and, very likely, partake of the sacraments: acid, ecstasy, and other mood-altering, mind-opening substances (crystal meth is virtually absent at the smaller, better raves). Ditto alcohol.)

On this weekend alone, Vibrator is just one, and with only a few hundred select participants, by far the smallest of at least three raves taking place in the city, all of which are attended mainly by hard-core ravers who learn of the events through word-of-mouth.

But Vibrator, as all its attendees know or soon discover, is a rave with a difference. Few coming to it fresh would likely be able to pinpoint its source of singularity; but those fully in tune with its vibe understand its creative twist: not only is its promoter, Schirmer, an authentic raver, fully of the fold since his teenage years; not only is he cute and queer; not only is he sweet-natured, loving, and open with all kinds of people; he's also a long-term survivor hell-bent on staying alive.

Schirmer attributes his having lived and thrived for 13 years with HIV, without opportunistic infections and without having taken any AIDS medications (though he was diagnosed as having AIDS more than a year ago, when his T-cell count briefly dropped below 200) in large part to his total immersion in the rave scene.

"I don't know how to explain it, really, in words," he says. "It's just this feeling I get when I go dancing sometimes, especially at outdoor parties where there's a sunrise, and there's this sense of tribalness. That's when I start to think I have a key. Like, hey, I know exactly what I'm doing now, and I'm able to access this kind of energy that heals me. It makes me feel, like, shhhh, craazy girl! There's nothing like it."

Schirmer's ex-boyfriend and current roommate Josh, 25 (they and Vibrator DJ Kevin West recently turned a former punk-rock venue on Valencia Street, the Def Club, into a live-rave space), shares the attitude: "I can have all this stuff in my head, day-to-day crap that stresses me out, and then go to a party like Vibrator, and it won't matter any more. It'll be wiped away. I consider it a spiritual healing. It's my form of meditation."

Another close friend, Anna, who has traveled from San Diego to attend her fourth Vibrator party (though she insists she's not part of the rave scene), says, "I've

often heard Aaron say things like, 'I need to go out and dance. I think there's a restlessness that comes from the distraction of HIV, and the dancing and the music are partly an escape. But it's bigger than that, and it's bigger than HIV. Like any non-HIV person at a rave, he's having a really good time. But he feels the music more than most people. It's very healing to him.'

Holistic response

Schirmer's highly unorthodox approach to coping with AIDS, which includes his partaking of holistic therapies such as acupuncture, reiki, and medicinal herbs (he's donating a large chunk of the money Vibrator brings in to the Holistic AIDS Response Program in San Diego, where for years he volunteered), makes him something of an anomaly in the AIDS/HIV community.

While he fully accepts the medical consensus that HIV causes AIDS, Schirmer remains deeply ambivalent about the pharmaceuticals now being widely prescribed to keep the virus in check. On the one hand, he recognizes their potential to keep AIDS patients alive, at least for a while, and he understands they have dramatically reduced AIDS-related deaths. Still, in large part because he's done so well without them, he can't help wondering if others with asymptomatic HIV wouldn't do better pursuing alternative therapies.

"My doctor feels that whatever I'm doing is working," says Schirmer, "so to stick with it. And that means making decisions like not taking the drugs right now. He said that if you get a gut feeling that you should be on these medications, then go with it. But if you're getting a gut feeling that now is not the right time, go with it. So that's where I'm at as far as deciding when to take medications."

Schirmer's twin brother, Mike, who's also gay, HIV-positive (for 12 years), and a raver ("former club kid," as he puts it), went ahead with the cocktail therapy after he came down with crypto and was told he had only a 20 percent chance of recovery. The drugs worked, and he's in decent health, dancing with abandon at Vibrator, his hair the brightest Day-Glo orange in the room.

Unfortunately, Mike Schirmer couldn't adhere to the drug regimen, so recently gave up trying — a decision most medical experts warn is fraught with risk.

"Going on medications is a huge decision," says Tim Teeter, RN, a treatment support services specialist at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "All of the medications have side effects. You have to believe that what you're doing is something you can stick with. At this point, that means for the rest of your life."

"A wrong take on the situation," cautions Project Inform's Brenda Lien, "is, look, this guy [Aaron Schirmer] is living a long time without drugs, so drugs must be bad for you."

A possible explanation for Schirmer's longevity, Lien offers, quite apart from his raving, is that "some people, for whatever reason, have immune systems better able to function [with HIV]."

they are to fend off the virus. Schirmer was only 16 when he got the virus from his first sex partner.

Statistically speaking, Lien adds, Schirmer is only slightly beyond the normal survival curve: "Before combination antiviral therapies, the average time from initial HIV infection to death ranged from 10-12 years. At 13 years, Aaron's clearly falling outside the norm, but only slightly."

Still, Lien acknowledges, "Aaron's system has clearly been

able to control the disease. He's probably a living example that one of the most potent antivirals is the immune system itself."

Positive state

Keeping one's immune system intact, in Schirmer's view, is best achieved through a positive state of mind, which is why music and dancing help. He refuses to be a victim, instead concentrating on healing energies within himself (which has not prevented him from smoking cigarettes, drinking beer, and indulging in recreational drugs, though he wants to cut back on those habits).

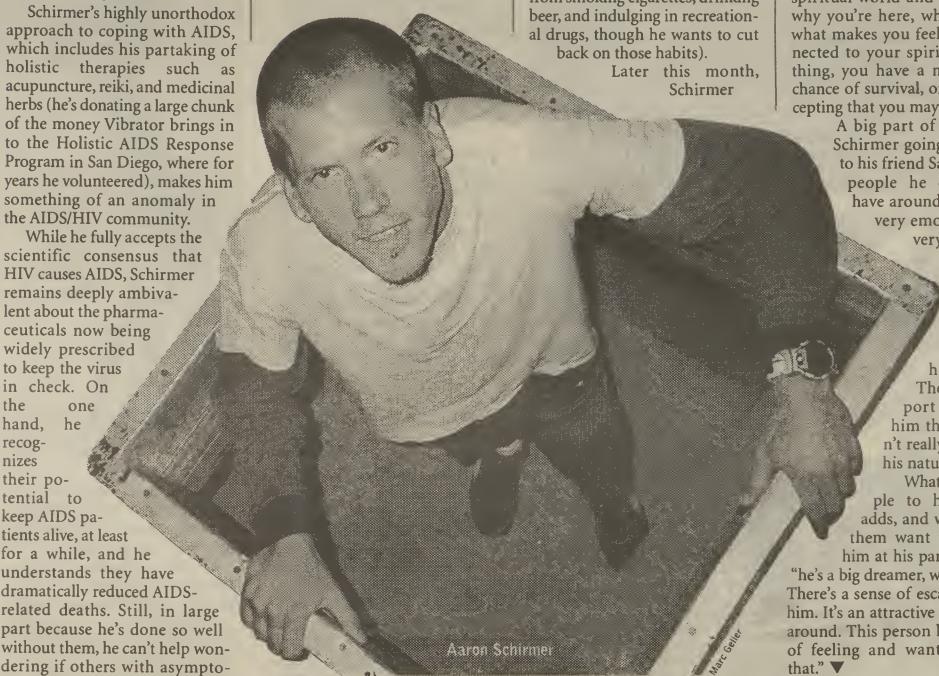
Later this month, Schirmer

will travel with his lover Christian, a former punk-rock devotee who's not into raves but is way into body piercing and tattoos, to Borneo, a journey he hopes will introduce him to tribal people who never lost their connection with native spirituality, and who have their own style of raving.

"If you're able to find an outlet," says Schirmer in his gentle, boyish voice, gazing pensively into the near distance, "to seriously get down to the nitty-gritty in your spiritual world and understand why you're here, what matters, what makes you feel more connected to your spirit than anything, you have a much better chance of survival, or at least accepting that you may die."

A big part of what keeps Schirmer going, according to his friend Sarah, are the people he chooses to have around him: "He's very emotional, and very open, and he needs people a lot, but it's selective. His friends are his family. They're a support group for him that he doesn't really have from his natural family."

What draws people to him, Sarah adds, and what makes them want to be with him at his parties, is that "he's a big dreamer, which I love. There's a sense of escapism with him. It's an attractive thing to be around. This person has a depth of feeling and wants to share that." ▼



Aaron Schirmer

Marc Geiter

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Out There

◀ page 30

press that he's gay, we're sort of embarrassed we gave the movie as much play as we did.

Flora and fauna

While we're reviewing the press, we're glad to see our favorite macho-man *Exclaminer* staff writer was reassigned to the crocodile-in-the-backyard beat, and taken off that nasty poisoning-pigeons-in-the-park beat. As long as Mr. *Wild Kingdom*'s editor keeps a strong hand, and he's not allowed to return to the dating-men-who-are-not-masculine-enough-for-me beat, we'll hold our considerable tongue.

Diva divulges

While the *Exclam* goes reptile-hunting, we're dipping into the escapist reading pile (is it August, or what?), and we must share a few morsels from **Renzo** and **Roberto Allegrì**'s wonderful new **Callas by Callas, The Secret Writings of "La Maria,"** just out from Universe. The fun of this book is in the archival photos, from the diva's chubby beginnings through the "Callas Age" at La Scala, to (as the chapters put it) "A Bitter Illusion: **Onassis**" and the "Solitude of the Last Years." Accompanying the photos are Callas in her own words: excerpts from her letters, mostly to her husband **Giovanni Battista Meneghini**, such as: "Dear Battista, I have to make a confession. I would dearly like to have a child. I think it would even be good for my voice and my terrible skin..."

There's lots of diva turns at the opera ("I am mad with **Baum**, the tenor. He is worse than a jealous woman. He never stops insulting me. And he is furious because at the end of *Aida*, I achieved a sharp flat. The audience was delirious, and Baum shook with envy.") and glimpses of domestic life: "This



Maria Callas in evening wear in 1957

small apartment suits me. I have a small kitchen which is very useful. I've just gone to take some milk off the gas. I shall now drink a warm glass with plenty of sugar and plenty of cognac to try and get rid of this bothersome cold..."

Despite the rather unfortunate design choice of running titles and pull quotes across the page spreads, so that their middles get gobbled up into the binding, this new Callas tome is sure to delight the opera queens amongst us, and you know who you are. La Maria was no great fan of the press, but she spouted such great copy! **Tebaldi** has never been my victim. Perhaps the opposite is true."

Different strokes

Doesn't it seem like ages and ages since we peddled a good, juicy blind item? Here's one that just fell into our lap: that well-known early '90s **bad girl/queer activist-turned busty dyke stripper** (hint: it was her body coupled with **Hongisto**'s face on the famous *Bay Crimes* cover) says she was working her usual weekend shift at a prominent heterosexual porno palace, when who should eagerly accept a lap dance but a very well-known and well-muscled **fair-haired porn star** who was headlining that week at a prominent gay porno palace. It seems Mr. Muscles is strictly gay-for-pay, because Ms. Stripper says he was by far her best customer all night. He even made arrangements to leave her name at the door of his venue, so she could come and watch him spank his monkey. Now that's

what we call a tip.

Animal kingdom

We close with an item recently culled and translated from the German newsmagazine *Der Spiegel* by our dear friend **Bavarian Butch**. Under the headline "*Unter Geiern*" ("Amongst Vultures"), the article read:

Founded by **Aaron Schulow**, who immigrated from Russia to Israel 50 years ago, the "Biblical Zoo" near Jerusalem has on exhibit two pairs of every animal species listed in the scripture as passengers of Noah's Ark.

Remarkable activities have been reported from the vultures' habitat lately. The two male vultures, **Daschik** and **Jehuda**, showed more interest in each other than in their female companions. Besides humping each other happily and displaying other kinds of mutual affection, the guys also started to build a nest together.

Curious zoologists provided the lovebirds with a wooden egg, which was promptly adopted. The subsequent donation of an actual fertilized vulture egg soon led to the birth of little **Diva** (named in honor of the recent European song contest winner, **Dana International**, a transsexual representing Israel). This case of domestic partnership has created religious debate within parts of the Orthodox Jewish community, for which the zoo is a popular excursion spot.

Daschik and Jehuda are oblivious to the controversy — they're busy taking care of little Diva. ▼



Daschik and Jehuda, gay vultures in a committed relationship

TRAVEL

When Irish eyes are smiling (on gays)

by Elisabeth Flynn

For gay travelers planning a European holiday, Ireland is hardly a place that springs to mind. Oscar Wilde's birthplace doesn't even rate a mention in most gay guidebooks, for reasons which seem needless to recount. Here was Italy's repressed Catholic cousin, with all of the guilt and none of the pleasure, or so it seemed. For years, homosexuals joined the ranks of Irish émigrés in search of freedom and an easier life.

Even in this ancient land, however, change is in the air. Fueled by its entry into the European Union and the subsequent revival of Ireland's economic fortunes, Dublin today boasts the confidence and sheen of a city on the rise. On a recent visit I found a surprisingly vibrant gay culture in bloom. The progress, by U.S. standards, may seem tame, but for a country which granted its first legal divorce in 1995, the Emerald Isle has indeed come a long way.

Deborah Ballard is editor of *Gay Community News*, Ireland's only lesbian and gay publication, which recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. "Our circulation is 12,000," Ballard said, "but we think the readership's probably about 30,000." A staff of 25, both paid and volunteer, helps put the paper out each month.

Brian Finnegan, who writes for GCN and compiles the queer pages for the bimonthly city

guide *In Dublin*, said he's seen a tremendous change in the city's gay scene over the last few years. "It's enormous, in terms of visibility," Finnegan said. "People are much more confident and more visible." This May marked the first-ever gay Mardi Gras celebration in Dublin, and in June the city hosted its Second International Dyke March.

"The scene in Dublin used to be a very small, community-based scene," Finnegan said, noting that in recent years, "a lot of money was plowed back into the community."

Selling itself

An editorial Finnegan wrote last year on the commercialization of Dublin's gay scene was picked up by the London press, and eventually the Dublin dailies, who wondered aloud: Could this most Catholic capital actually be selling itself as a gay tourist destination?

"It's been all over the place," Finnegan said of reports about Dublin's gay renaissance. "In the last two years, it's become very commercially-oriented," he said, "kind of like Castro Street in San Francisco or Compton Street in London," though on a much smaller scale. Some say the growth in gay visibility is a natural extension of the social changes Ireland has seen in recent years; cynics argue that it's simply shrewd businesspeople going after the pink pound.

While Dublin boasts no gay

page 41 ▶



Trinity College

Elisabeth Flynn

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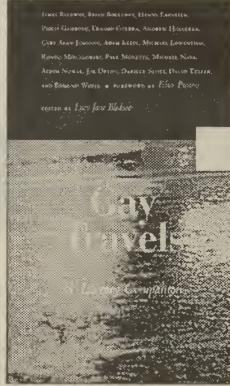
by Robert Julian

Gay Travels: A Literary Companion, edited by Lucy Jane Bledsoe; Whereabouts Press, \$14.95

Travel books for gay men are usually a predictable lot. You learn, for a given location, how to find hot cruising spots, booze, baths, and boîtes. You also find out which hoteliers are likely to spit on you for dragging a same-sex partner into your double bed. This is useful information, but it is usually buried amid the kind of prose found in the *Guinness Book of Records*. With a conspicuous absence of predictability, editor Lucy Jane Bledsoe's volume *Gay Travels* comes as a refreshing and delightful change of pace.

Bledsoe assembles a collection of seventeen stories by as many gay male writers — stories that take the reader around the globe by means of amazingly varied first-person accounts. But the stories differ from typical travel articles in their literary quality. Most of the articles originally appeared in other publications, and readers of gay literature may already be familiar with Joe Orton's "Tangier Diary" from *The Orton Diaries* or James Baldwin's "Equal in Paris" from *Notes of a Native Son*. Yet stories like these are a pleasure to revisit because of the evocative power of the writing. Some of the entries, like Baldwin's, deal with homosexuality only obliquely, but most of the stories are up-front queer journeys remarkable for the depth of the authors' perceptions.

That frequently cited but seldom defined "queer sensibility" runs through this collection in an



undeniable fashion. Each story, regardless of the presence or absence of sexual escapades, reflects the perspective of the outsider — times two. The authors are not only strangers in strange lands, but homosexual travelers on voyages through a heterosexual universe. Gay men, who often cast themselves in the role of observer within their countries of origin, here get to hone their skills in foreign lands. Among the notable entries are Paul Monette's poignant and melancholy résumé of the end of his traveling days, "A One-Way Fare," and Andrew Holleran's eerily disturbing "Sleepless in Mexico."

Bledsoe is also the editor of *Lesbian Travels*, which will be released in September by the same publisher. Based on the extraordinary success of *Gay Travels*, women readers with an interest in travel and literature should mark their calendars now. ▶



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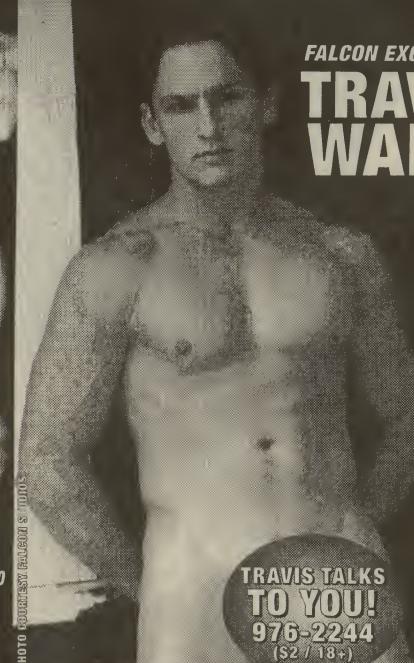
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House party

by Deborah Peifer

A House on the Ocean, A House on the Bay by Felice Picano; Faber, \$14.95

Owing to a tragic inability to accessorize, I am not a gay man, but I did live in Manhattan during the halcyon days, after Stonewall and before the plague, when gay men celebrated their sexuality with ribald enthusiasm and the greatest pleasure. My Monday mornings were filled with stories of frolics on Fire Island, or, during the winter, of Saturday nights at the baths. It was such a pleasure, watching these young, and not so young, gay men celebrate their sexuality where only a few years before, shame was the

dominant feeling about homo sex. Reading *A House on the Ocean, A House on the Bay*, the third volume of Felice Picano's memoirs, gave me a chance to remember those days and the men I knew, when the present was bright, the future brighter, and the dark past a rapidly dimming memory.

Picano captures not just gayness but the very specific way that gay men in New York saw themselves in those lovely days: "[Gay men] were sexually liberated and believed that one should share one's self-esteem, worked-out body, and handsome face with as many other handsome faces and worked-out bodies as possible, whether in a couple, trio or larger gathering. While romances, summer-long affairs, and even long-term 'marriages' were much

approved of ... shorter-term relationships, including onenighters, orgies, public sex in the bushes or on the beach, were all considered okay, so long as they were done with some style."

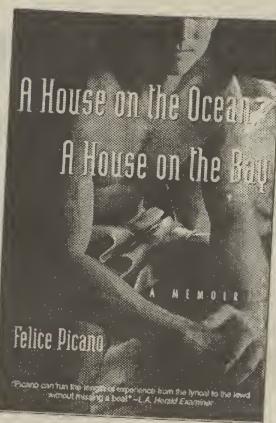
A House on the Ocean is more than the story of sex in the seventies, although there is plenty of that to enjoy. This tale is also Picano's discovery of his writerly self, a revelation that came after a time of despair and confusion: "On March 21, I openly wondered about my future ... I wrote, I must find the focus of my life's work. I seem to have to stumble through trial and error, one after another to find out what it is: ... Between that entry and April 24, 1971, there were no entries in my journal. On the latter date, I again picked up my journal and reported: 'Today at 5:20 P.M., New York City, I completed the handwritten draft of my first novel? How? What happened? Nothing really, except that I sat down one evening after dinner and began to write. And by doing so, I became convinced that I was now, for the first time in my life, a writer ... I discovered what I could at last call Joy.'

Writer's walks

Before that joyous event, Picano spent a lot of time in activi-

ties that are familiar to every writer. I know he spoke to me: "I spent my time in what I'd excuse as preparation: mostly walking around the city, looking for hardcover notebooks in which to eventually write my masterworks; locating the proper fountain pen to accommodate my left-handedness; hunting for bargain records to listen to while I wrote."

I was lucky enough to have a few conversations with Picano at the last Readers and Writers Conference, so when I say that he writes in a conversational style, I am not talking about some faux folksiness that reflects a lazy writer. Picano writes the way he talks: thoughtfully, poetically, with humor or sadness or both as the story requires. His style serves his memoir well. As I found myself wondering about some character or another, Picano brought that



"Picano conveys the insights of experience from the lyrical to the lewd without missing a beat" —L.A. Herald Examiner

character back to the narrative and answered my question. The result, for me, was a real sense that I was having a conversation with Picano. *A House on the Ocean* is just that personal an experience.

So many of the men who lived that important part of our history are gone; we need our storytellers to remind us of those men and how they lived. Younger gays and lesbians, born into the plague years, need to be told that there was a time when we were not afraid, when sex had nothing to do with death, and everything to do with loving ourselves and each other. *A House on the Ocean* shows us those days through the eyes of a passionate participant who is also an astute and loving observer. It's also a chance to see the early days of one of our best writers. Don't miss it. ▼

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Fetid doings at Harvard

by Matthew Kennedy

The Student Body by Jane Harvard; Villard, \$23

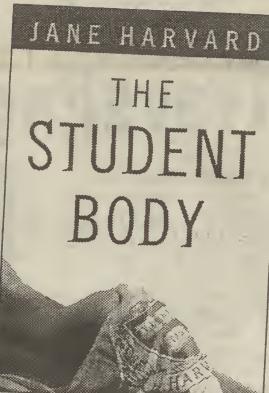
A few years back, four 1986 Harvard grads decided the most efficient way to retire tuition debts was to write a racy book. The four in question, Faith Adiele, Michael Francisco Melcher, Bennett Singer, and Julia Sullivan, combined their multiple perspectives and considerable literary

gifts to become the pseudonym Jane Harvard. Ms. Harvard scribed *The Student Body*, a work of fiction based on snippets of fact. The tome is about an unfamiliar Harvard: there's enough raunch, evil, and duplicity behind those stately, ivy-infested walls to make Jacqueline Suzzann blush in her grave. The pot boils over with drugs, murder, an orgy, blackmail, and fraud. Blessedly, the authors go light on the violence. Of course, they could all be charged with literary prostitution, trading a fast summer read for the reputation of their storied alma mater, but the neatly realized characters and *Tales of the City*-type breeziness dismiss such concerns. And anyway, the book concerns more literal prostitution at Harvard.

Here's the high concept: Harvard is a cesspool of money laundering and research scams. And at the center of its dirty little secret is a highly discreet student escort service. The whole business rests on the dubious assumption that Harvard students are extra-sexy because they're Harvard students. They even sport condoms with the Harvard motto ("Veritas," Latin for truth) on it. Presumed brains make for hot bedfellows, it seems.

A mountain of treachery is brought down by intrepid Toni Isaacs, an ambitious student journalist for *The Harvard Crimson*. Though African-American, she conjured up the repeated image for me of Jodie Foster in *The Silence of the Lambs*. She's plucky, resourceful, sympathetic, and all-too-often naive. Then there's Chelo, her Latina roommate, who finds some uncensored student diaries that are key to the mysteries of the sex ring. Van is their study bisexual friend, who has a legion of erotic admirers.

The revelation that Harvard



students are prostituting themselves may appear less shocking to readers than to the book's well-drawn characters. Toni acts as though she's uncovered a Ripley's Believe It Or Not shocker. She forgets this is a jaded and overstimulated world we live in, where Presidential "distinguishing characteristics" get trumpeted on the evening news. The Ivy League has never been short of scandals, and Playboy, after all, has mined the co-ed flesh market for eons. So the book's strengths rest more with its crackling narrative and three-dimensional heroes than on thinly veiled exposé.

The Student Body has a rapier narrative and clean, clear descriptions that are altogether unexpected from a book written by a committee of four. How Jane Harvard achieved such seamless prose is as amazing as it is laudable. And any book that describes a falsely upbeat and slightly unhinged prostitute as "sounding like Jennifer Jason Leigh at an Amway convention" must have a high wit factor. For a book that doesn't pretend to be anything but a page-turner, *The Student Body* goes the distance and beyond. ▼

TRAVEL

Gay Ireland

◀ page 39

main street like Castro or Compton, the South Central area of Dublin, just below the River Liffey, is where most gay socializing takes place. "We always say that South William Street, where we are, is the queer street," Ballard said. "But that is stretching it a bit. I mean, we're not talking the Castro here. This is more like two or three gay businesses and a community center. But Dublin 2 is a quarter where there would be a lot of the more fashionable clubs and saunas," she said.

Both Ballard and Finnegan attribute the growing visibility of gay culture in Ireland in large part to its merger with Europe, and more importantly, the European Court of Human Rights. Prior to 1993, "sex between men was totally illegal," Ballard said. That year, Irish Senator David Norris successfully campaigned to equalize the age of consent for homosexuals with that of heterosexuals in Ireland, to 17.

It was, according to Finnegan, a watershed. "It really changed the social scene in Dublin," he

said. In addition to its adherence with the Court of Human Rights, Ireland's merger with Europe has opened its borders to an unprecedented degree, so a long history of exodus is slowly being reversed. "Ireland is a country that tends to look at itself from outsiders' eyes," Finnegan said, and this new wave of immigrants is ushering in significant social change.

Home-grown

While the influence of outsiders is certainly felt, the Republic boasts plenty of home-grown talent as well. "There are plenty of activists in Ireland," Finnegan said, foremost among them Senator Norris, whom he called "the most well-known gay man in Ireland." A new generation of gay Irish artists is making their voices heard, among them novelist Emma Donoghue, Irish language poet Cathal O'Searcagh, and the lesbian pop band Zrazy.

While many welcome these signs of new life in Ireland's social scene, the developments are not without controversy among members of the gay community. "There's a lot of discussion around commercial versus community here," Finnegan said. "There's a certain amount of resistance to it, as well as a certain amount of enjoyment of it."

Certainly, pub and club-crawlers have more choices than ever, with the opening of several new gay spots and the addition of gay nights at others. Oldest and best-known is The George, on Great Georges St., "which tends to monopolize our pub scene," Finnegan said. Newly refurbished and expanded in size, The George retains an old-world, brass and polish charm, serving up pints in a friendly atmosphere, with a rotating schedule of club, drag and disco nights. Out on the Liffey, a quayside bar and restaurant, made a splash with its opening last year. P.O.D. Nightclub, a favorite of the fashionable set, hosts "Homo Action Movies" each Friday night, and The Kitchen in trendy Temple Bar goes gay on Mondays, when the delectable Miss Candy holds court.

"Most major clubs would have a gay night on the weekend," Finnegan said, "which points to how trendy gay clubbing has become in Dublin." More and more 'gay-friendly' restaurants have opened as well,

including Juice and Marx Brothers on Georges Street.

While Dublin's gay clubs and bars tend to be dominated by men, women's clubs, like the popular Stonewallz, are also on the rise. "There is a very strong lesbian community in Dublin, and a very strong lesbian identity in Ireland," Finnegan said. Places like OutHouse, Dublin's gay community center, "would be very mixed," according to Ballard.

Finnegan himself said he'd like to see political growth fostered by the flowering commercial scene. "Like many people," he said, "I emigrated because I was gay." After some years in London, he returned in 1993 for family reasons, and was amazed at the change in Dublin's gay culture. Perhaps because of their long-standing invisibility, Finnegan said he found Irish gays to be "aware of what they want and what they need."

"It's very easy to let product and selling determine what the agenda would be," he said, stressing the need to focus on critical social issues such as marriage, adoption, work, and education. Outside of Dublin, Finnegan said, gay life in Ireland remains largely invisible. "We may have lots of clubs and bars, and it's easy to celebrate and enjoy them, but you tend to forget that we haven't actually got much in terms of human rights," Finnegan said. "It's important to remember what we have yet to gain for ourselves, and what we're missing." ▼

MUSIC

Sleater-Kinney returns to SF Friday



John Clark

Having just finished recording their fourth album, Olympia, Washington's famed dyke-grrrl power trio, Sleater-Kinney, return to San Francisco this Friday, August 7, for a sold-out show at the Great American Music Hall. The band will likely play several songs off the upcoming record, including the rousing rave-up, "By The Time You're 25." The trio then head off to Europe to play a number of shows and music festivals, before returning to the U.S. in time to release a new single in October. The just-recorded, still-unitled new album, the follow-up to last year's brilliant, blistering, critically-acclaimed *Dig Me Out*, will be released on Olympia indie-label Kill Rock Stars next January.

—Adrian Roberts

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



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Feygelah Schmeygelah

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Take Feygelah Schmeygelah: An Evening of Queer Jewish Humor, please. Sponsored by HE'BREW: The Chosen Beer, it features a spectacular line-up of funny feygelahs and dykelahs.

The brainchild of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ creator Lisa Geduldig, who made a name for herself telling Jewish jokes at a Chinese Restaurant in Northampton, Massachusetts (go figure), Feygelah Schmeygelah serves up a deli platter of schtick, juggling, folk song, and laughs.

Experience Phranc, the all-American Jewish lesbian folksinger, clad in her signature uniform of 501s, combat boots, white T-shirt, and flat top. She'll sing selections from her upcoming CD, "The Milkman."

Witness Las Vegas based Joan Rivers impersonator Patrick Ross do a mix of Rivers' jokes and original gay material written in Rivers' style.

Watch solo artist Sara Felder juggle and hear her do her Yiddish vaudeville schtick. She has performed at festivals of Jewish/Yiddish culture in Berlin, London, Amsterdam, and Toronto. Her solo show "June Bride" depicts a typical Jewish lesbian wedding.

Fawn over cute, possibly single, twenty-something comic Dan Rothenberg. Much sought after in the local comedy circuit, Rothenberg was the only San Francisco comic chosen to perform at this year's Montreal International Comedy Festival, "Just for Laughs."

Empathize with definitely single Geduldig, who besides creating this unique event has often told jokes at gay and Jewish events in the Bay Area, throughout the U.S., and in London.

If it's funny you want, this show is your ticket. But act quick: the first show is nearly sold out; a second show has been added for the teeming masses yearning to get in. So go, already. You won't be sorry. ▼

Feygelah Schmeygelah: An Evening of Queer Jewish Humor, takes place Saturday, August 8, at Fort Mason's Cowell Theater. Two shows, at 7pm and 9:30pm. Tickets \$20 from Fort Mason Center Box Office: 441-3687. Call for more info: 522-3737; or surf www.igc.org/koshercomedy.



L'Hermitage, oil on wood, 15" x 7", 1998,
by Tino Rodriguez at
Bucheon Gallery.
See Friday.

Eri

Marin County Pride Weekend

Events today include: Men's Full-Moon Hike (7:30pm); and Women's Pride Pizza Party and Movie Night (7:30pm). Saturday: The Bi-Life Party (1-4pm); Queer Youth Pride Film Festival (6-10pm); Night of Pride Dancing & Drag Show (8-10pm). Sunday: softball tournament (9:30am-6pm); Spectrum Picnic (1pm). For details, contact Spectrum Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Concerns, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo; (415) 457-1115, ext. 209.

Jon Sims Center

AIRspace artist-in-residence Charles Trapolin uses the Sufi saying "love the pitcher less and the water more" as the seed for his new dance/sound/light show Vessel. A work in progress. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8:30pm. Also on 9/4. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 11th). 554-0402.

Bucheon Gallery

Reception for "The Young and the Restless... Again," featuring new works by 11 up-and-coming painters and sculptors, including such queer standouts as Tino Rodriguez and Scooter. Free. 6-9pm. 540 Hayes St. 863-2891.

Space Gallery

Ongoing exhibition, "A Variety of Substrates," thru 8/29. Free. 11am-7pm. 1141 Polk St. (at Sutter). 674-1997.

Artful Circle Theatre
"Eve," a musical comedy

based on the movie "All About Eve." Stars Matthew Martin as Margo and Birdie-Bobb Watt as Eve. Arturo Galster as Karen (aka Patsy Kline) sings "What a Fool I've Been." Directed by Dana Peter Porras. From the creators of "Christmas with the Crawfords." \$20 (\$15 on Thursdays). Thru 9/27. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. Tickets: 474-8800; BASS; Tix Union Square.

Paramount Theatre

"All About Eve," the classic 1950 film starring Bette Davis and Anne Baxter. \$5. 8pm. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Box Office: (510) 465-6400.

ACC Craft Show

The American Craft Council showcases the ceramics, jewelry, glass, wood, metal, furniture and fashions of some 350 craftspeople. \$7 (\$12 for two-day pass). Gay artisans include W. Chester Old. Thru 8/9. 10am-8pm. Fort Mason Center, Herbst & Festival Pavilions, Buchanan St. and Marina Blvd. 896-5060.

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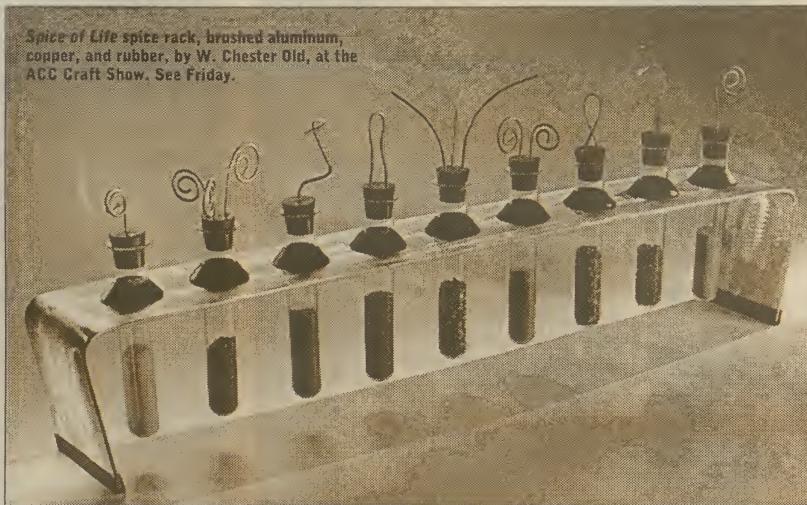
SF Games

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En Drag

Hostess Sexily Luvsat runs her gaggle of female impersonators ragged in the course of three shows. First show at 9pm. \$10 (covers all three

Spice of Life spice rack, brushed aluminum, copper, and rubber, by W. Chester Old, at the ACC Craft Show. See Friday.



shows). Kimo's Showroom, 1351 Polk St. (at Pine). 885-4535.

Josie's Cabaret

Dinner-theatre with Marga Gomez. \$26-\$28. Dinner and preferred seating for Gomez's 8pm show "Gag Reflex," an evening of stand-up comedy, character assassination, venting, spewing, and stories about the rich and stupid. Show only: \$10. Thru 8/9. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. (at Market). Reservations: 861-7933.

Late Night at Josie's

David Mills and Bridget Schwartz host comedy talk show with musicians, actors, and other talents. Tonight: "Summer Book Report Show" with the Widow Norton, Isadora Alman, and Julia Jackson. Every Friday. 10pm. \$10. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. Reservations: 861-7933.

Young Performers Theater

Exotic costumes and puppets grab attention in artist Sha Sha Higby's "The Wooden Sun," a "dance in sculptural costume." \$12.50 (\$15.50 Fri. & Sat.). Thru 8/9. 8pm (plus 9:30 show Fri. & Sat.). Fort Mason Center. 868-2409.

Mad Magda's

David Bergman plays the African harp in the Magic Garden every Friday in August. \$5 donation. 7:30pm. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

Sat

Closet Ball

Dress formal (gowns & tiaras, tux, or whatever) for the 25th anniversary of this cross-dressing bash. See 15 gorgeous men transformed into handsome ladies. \$25 door; \$35-\$65 reserved tables. 8:30pm. San Francisco Gift Center. Tickets at Marlenas (488 Hayes St.) and the Giraffe (1131 Polk St.). Round-trip shuttle (\$5) from Giraffe to Gift Center at 7pm and 7:20.

Freestyle

Break beat, trip-hop, rare groove, funk by resident DJ Christopher and guest DJ Julia. Hosted by Miz Ana Matronic. \$5 cover. 10pm-3am. Every second Saturday of the month. The Stud (9th & Harrison).

El Rio

Red presents "Mango," an outdoor tea dance for women. 3pm. After 10pm: live music with Kingdon, Fine to Drive, and Flexapleasers. \$5 cover. 3158 Mission St. (btwn.

Cesar Chavez and Valencia). 643-3325.

Futura

4th anniversary. Special guest Jon Seda, star of the move "Selena" and TV's "Home-
ide." VIP cocktail party and AIDS benefit in partnership with the S.F. Giants. First 50 people get free tickets to Giants' "Till There's A Cure" game (Sunday, 8/9). \$15. 8:30-10pm. Dance afterward till 3am (\$10 for dance only). 174 King St. (at 3rd). 665-6715.

Fiesta Hawaiana

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano holds its August party and potluck dinner tonight. Theme: "The Hawai'i Party." For all Spanish-speaking Bay Area gay men and their friends. 6:30-11pm. Call Juan Carlos for details: 863-7087.

Arts & Crafts SF

Pottery, textiles, jewelry, and furniture in Art Nouveau, Native American, California Rancho, and Vintage Western styles. Works by some 100 artisans. \$7. Thru 8/9. 10am-6pm (11-5 Sunday). Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th & Brannan Streets. Info: (707) 865-1576.

John LeFlore

Paintings and drawings. Duffle Rainbow; 1653 Polk St. Free. Thru 9/1. 775-3220.

Fauxgirls

This "all-different" revue of female impersonators is co-hosted by Sexily Luvsat and Miss Charlott. \$8 cover. 2 shows ("each different"). Open mike drag show follows (bring tape or CD and be a star). Doors open 9:30pm. Kimo's Upstairs Showroom, 1351 Polk St. 885-4535. 9

Crystal Fair

The 6th annual Great Contra Costa Crystal Fair features more than 30 exhibitors of crystals, minerals, jewelry and mystical healing arts. \$3. Thru 8/9. 10am-6pm. (10am-5pm Sunday). Civic Park Community Center (Civic Drive and Broadway, 4 blks. from BART), Walnut Creek. Info: Pacific Crystal Guild; (415) 383-7837.

Sun

S.F. Giants

"Until There's A Cure" AIDS benefit game. 5pm. (Pre-game concert with KC and the Sunshine Band at 3pm.) 3-Com Park. Tickets: 1-800-SFGIANTS.

Dolores Park Cafe

Reception for artist Brian McDonald's "Portraits of People" exhibit. 10% of sales go to Project Open Hand. Free. 7-9pm. 501 Dolores St.



The inimitable Sherry Vine (aka Keith Levy) performs at Trannyshack. See Tuesday.

(at 18th). 621-2936.

Stern Grove Festival

The San Francisco Ballet performs highlights of its 1998 season, including Mark Morris' evocative *Maelstrom*, George Balanchine's whimsical *Western Symphony*, and *pas de deux*. Free. 2pm. First come, first seated. Bring ground cloth and picnic lunch. Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th Ave. at Sloat Blvd.

Community Music Center

Recital featuring *Fantasy Pieces* by Schumann and sonatas by Britten and Chopin. Noriko Kishi, cello; Naria Chiang, piano. \$10 (\$5 seniors/children). 7:30pm. 544 Capp St. (btwn. 20th & 21st). 647-6015.

Chanticleer

The Bay Area's internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble presents Benjamin Britten's "Curlew River," a 75-minute opera based on a medieval Japanese Noh play portraying a grief-stricken mother seeking her missing child. Reserved seats \$25-\$29. General admission \$19. 8pm (7pm Sundays). Thru 8/16. Tickets through City Box Office (392-4400) or BASS. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St.

Mon 10

Cafe DuNord

Sultry songmeister Veronica Klaus steams up your glasses and melts your heart. \$7 cover. 9pm. 2170 Market.

A Different Light

Alaya Pines reads from *Romantic Jealousy*, advice from a clinical psychologist who specializes in working with couples. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Tues

iY. Q.U.E.!

Young, Queer & Under Emergency presents "The Zoo," a place for all under-25 gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender Latinos/as to meet, make friends, share thoughts, and

kick back. Activities include refreshments, movie nites, games, crafts, and outings. Free. Every Tuesday at 6:30pm. Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida (PCPV), 2973 16th St. (at Mission). 864-7278.

Trannyshack

Supervixen Sherry Vine returns to S.F. and joins hostess Heklina for a night of trashy fun. \$4 cover. The Stud, 9th & Harrison.

Josie's Cabaret

Gay Mexican singer-songwriter Jesus Guillen performs Spanish-language songs every Tuesday in August, including selections from his new album, "Jesus." With guest musicians. 8pm. 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Theatre of Yugen

Byron Yee's autobiographical "Paper Son" begins as a humorous look at Oriental stereotypes in Hollywood, but turns to investigating his father's immigration records, unearthing a motherlode of surprising information. \$10.50-\$12.50 general. \$8.50 students/seniors. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa St. at

Film and TV star Jon Seda performs at Futura, to heat the crowd up the night before the Giants' AIDS benefit game. See Saturday.



Project Artaud. 621-7978.

Wed

A Different Light

Dodie Bellamy reads from *Letters of Mina Harker*, an epistolary novel. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891

Footloose @ Venue 9

The Creative Music Series sponsored by Footloose has expanded to include visual and multimedia songs. Now experience "Other Features: Music, Film, and Video" every Wednesday at Venue 9. Tonight: XYZ, featuring Pamela Z (voice, electronic processing, BodySynth), Amy X Neubert (voice and Midi percussion), JY (percussion) and guests Qube Chix (voices and hair clippers) and H. Maroon (clarinet and voice). \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (btwn. Folsom and Howard). Info./Reservations: 289-2000.

SF Gay Rap

The gay, bi, lesbian, transgen-

der weekly gathering for discussions, poetry readings, card and board games, improv theatre, or whatever. Tonight: "Free At Last: Starting and Running a Small Business," a no-hype talk session. Free. 7pm to 10pm. Harvey Milk Academy Auditorium, 4235 19th St. at Collingwood. 522-8700.

Mad Magda's

Matthew Worszyllo's performances as Kielbasa, Queen of Poland. In this third installation in a series, Kielbasa travels the land, working to keep the old recipes alive. An evening of comedy and song, with accordion. Also: viewing of Kielbasa's vacation slides. \$5. 8pm. Each Wednesday in August. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

Bottom of the Hill

Record release party for Erik Core (loud, fast, angry, gay acoustic punk) and Big Shrimp, plus Cell Block 5. \$5 cover. 8:30pm. 1235 17th St.

Modern Times Bookstore

Sexpert Carol Queen reads from her latest work, *The Leather Daddy & the Femme*, a tale of gender blending and exuberant sexual couplings. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. (at 20th). 282-9246.

Thur

DRIVE!

New queer electrofunk break-beat dance club. Trip out and bounce off walls as deejays Kristo and Zanne spin out of control. Be propelled by hard-hop tryptic pedalothemetal. Every Thursday, 10pm-2am. No cover. Queers and freaks of all genders welcome. The Stud, 9th & Harrison.

Josie's Cabaret

Comedians Karen Williams and Danny Williams. \$10. 8pm. Thru 8/16. 3583 16th St. Reservations: 861-7933.

Yerba Buena Center

Caminos Flamencos, one of the largest Spanish dance concert performances ever presented on the West Coast. More than 45 dancers, singers, and musicians. \$24 (\$20 students/seniors). 8pm. Thru 8/14. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street. 978-ARTS.

Great American Music Hall

Jai Uttal & The Pagan Love Orchestra. Also, direct from Israel, Sheva, performing transformational world tribal music from the ancient cultures of Israel and the Middle East. \$15. 8pm. 859 O'Farrell St. 885-0750.

DragStrip

Fudgie Frottage hosts the club where gender bends over backwards, with DJ Sir Stephanie Phillips. \$3-\$5. Every Thurs. 9:30pm. 375 11th St. 331-9595. Ext. 300.

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Rocky Mountain high

by Mister Marcus

You'll be hearing accolades for many moons to come about the Thunder in the Mountains leather pride weekend in Denver this past weekend (July 31-August 2). Seminars, workshops, vendor fair, and the Mr. and Ms. Rocky Mountain Leather contests all fell together in one of the most professionally-run leather weekends I've seen in a long, long time. A dedicated squadron of volunteers gave it their all as delegates from around the country gathered in the Mile High City to celebrate diversity in the leather/SM nation.

The Ramada Inn Central was the scene for most of the action, with play parties offered for evenings and leather/SM luminaries — which included Tony DeBlase, Michael Horowitz, Brian Dawson, Guy Baldwin, Lolita Wolf, Mark Frazier, Joseph Bean, Viola Johnson, Race Bannon, Sky Renfro, Frank Strona and the luscious Mary Dante — dispensing knowledge in workshops, demos and seminars. Their subject matter ranged from leather leadership, vampires in the scene, foot fetishes, electricity, cybersex, bondage, flogging, corsetry and piercings, to SM and the Law and the kinkier subject: CBT.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the Mr. and Ms. Rocky Mountain Leather contest held at the Club Proteus on Saturday night. A record crowd was on hand as manager Tim Kirkland put his staff through the paces for the huge turnout. Five men ("Blue," Bruce Chopnik, "Buck," Vinny, and Mark Chancy) and four women (Slave Julie, Abby Smith, Nancy Moon, and "A.J." Johnson) faced judges Dave Rhodes, Terry Stuart, Jean Bendick, Jim Chandler, Lady Willow, Amy Marie Meek, and myself. The competition was heavy.

With the imitable Brandi Moore doing a bang-up job as the emcee, the show opened with the presentation of colors by the Colorado Gay Rodeo Association, and Mr. Gay Pride '96 Lonnie Brewer did a great job with the national anthem.

Outgoing Mr. Rocky Mountain Leather Rich Dockter and friends created an illuminating fantasy, and the vivacious Brown Sugar & Company rocked the joint in a lively number. The pa-



Mr. and Ms. Rocky Mountain Leather Bruce Chopnik and Abby Smith smile for the adoring crowd in Denver last Saturday, Aug. 1.

rade of contestants in judging categories followed. No intermission intruded, and the show started and ended on time. The aspirants went through the obligatory leather image/speech segment, physique and bar-wear displays (except the women performed fantasies), and questions and answers.

Before tallymaster Steve Trusas delivered the results to the stage, one of the hottest drag acts I've ever seen was performed by the Denver Cycle Sluts, an ensemble of extreme talent that absolutely wrecked the audience. San Francisco leather people who were in attendance were flabbergasted!

Finally, after stepping-down speeches by Mikki Avis (Ms. Colorado Leather Pride), Rich Dockter, and Mr. Rocky Mtn. Leather 1996 Kent Epperson, the moment of truth arrived.

Abby Smith, a diminutive leather woman and a ball of fire, was named Ms. Rocky Mountain

Leather, with Slave Julie the runner-up. For the men, the 2nd runner-up was "Blue," the 1st runner-up was Mark Chancy, and Mr. Rocky Mountain Leather is Bruce Chopnik.

Besides being an extremely attractive couple, both Bruce and Abby are forces to deal with. Abby was a convincing drag king in a tearoom fantasy that had the audience seeking medical attention, they laughed, cheered, stomped, and raved so much! Bruce, a smallish attractive hunk, has a long record of community involvement, including fundraising, and was at one time the publisher of a gay newspaper in Denver. The audience seemed jubilant at the outcome and, I daresay, both Abby and Bruce will be major contenders at IMsL and IML in 1999.

You'll be glad to know that Denver's long-time leather bar, The Triangle, is under new management and has an enlarged space without the "special amenities" that got the previous owners in hot water. Every single bartender is friendly and helpful, and it was one

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, August 6

Free and anonymous HIV testing at 933 Harrison, at 2000, upstairs. It's the new oral test. Call 863-HEAD for info.

Saturday, August 8

25th annual Closet Ball tonight at the Gift Center Pavilion (2000 hours). Tickets are going fast for this campy event!

Bever/soda bust at Daddy's, 1700-1900, to help finance the Leather Pride Walk next month. Your support of this effort would be appreciated.

The Los Angeles Satyrs MC host a beer/soda bust at the Eagle this afternoon, 1500-1900, and it's a sign-up for the 37th Badger Flat weekend run in September.

Sunday, August 9

Golden Gate Guards MC host the Eagle beer/soda bust, from 1500-1800, for \$8.

The 15 Association hosts a beer/soda bust at Daddy's, 1500-1800, for \$7, with a flogging/spanking theme.

In Chicago, the Leather Archives and Museum host the opening of a new exhibit, "Kink: A Women's Perspective," with a reception for the numerous artists whose work will be on display. Call 773-275-1570 for details.

Wednesday, August 12

Wet Wednesday at 933 Harrison, with doors open from 2000-2300 only. Call 863-HEAD for details.

Thursday, August 13

MAST (Masters and slaves Together) meet at 1930 tonight, at 1525 Mission. The topic: "Dos and Don'ts of Safe and Sane SM Play."

Saturday, August 15

Cal Eagles MC 1-day ride to Monterey and Pacific Grove meets at Da ddy's at 0930 and leave for a nice trip at 1000. Call them for details at 267-0560.

Mr. Southern California Drummer contest at Probe in Los Angeles tonight. No details, but if you're in the vicinity, check it out!

LEATHER SCENE

of those "better together" moments when gay leather men and leather women mixed amiably with leather heterosexuals at the meet and greet on Friday night.

The great weekend owed much to the efforts of many, many volunteers under the direction of "C.J." of TML for the leather pride weekend, and to Greg Lowe and Rick Muntz of KMA productions for the title contest. It was a real Rocky Mountain high, and I'm sorry you missed it!

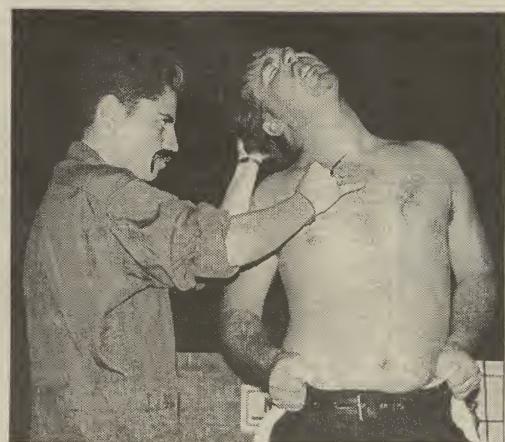
Back here in the Bay Area, not all that much was happening, except the Alameda County Leather Corps' leather weekend. Though I wasn't there, all the reports I got were positive. Steve Crouse and E-Ticket passed the sashes in a spirited contest that saw Lenny Broberg and Audrey Joseph as the emcees, with Audrey chastising Lenny throughout for hogging the mike. Nonetheless, it was a successful event, including the Steve Crouse roasting, the leather mart, and the Leather Walk on Sunday.

The new Mr. Alameda Co. Leather is Den Calkins, long a leather activist with a sterling record of fundraising, and the new Ms. Alameda Co. Leather is Marilyn Dickman. Since I got back from Denver so late on Sunday night, more details were not available at press time.

You can add four more new title holders to leather nation. At this time, next year's IML and IMSL look to be challenging contests.

Hog heaven in the Big Apple

Billed as the "ultimate convertible," motorcycles play a big part in the lives of men and women throughout the world. Imagine racing through the great outdoors with nothing between you and a



Abby Smith of Denver performed her fantasy in drag-king attire, wrecking the audience with her audacity.

limitless expanse of sky — and nothing to protect you from the whirring asphalt below. The combination elicits an expanded sense of freedom and danger in collusion, making you feel like you've finally succeeded, if only for scant moments. It's an unspoken gesture of rebellion against the strictures of everyday life.

So, if you happen to be in New York City between now and Sept. 20, inclusive, you must visit the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (1071 Fifth Avenue) for "The Art of Motorcycle" show. It's a beautiful display of high-powered two-wheelers that explores the enduring legacy of the icons of freedom. More than 100 bikes are on display, from the first steam-engine model to a turn-of-the-20th-Century Harley-Davidson. With advertising imagery on

display, and even screenings throughout of "The Wild One" and "Easy Rider," the exhibition is attracting thousands of bike lovers. The whole show makes a fuel-injected argument for why the motorcycle still inhabits the panoramic sweep of American cultural mythology. Don't miss it if you're in Manhattan.

More fun and interesting events will be coming your way this summer, leading up to Leather Pride Week (starting Sunday, September 20), so watch for these items as we get closer to the Folsom Street Fair on September 27.

And how about those Niners? In their first exhibition game of the season last Sunday, against the New England Patriots, they prevailed with a 14-13 score, and the 1998 season is looking good already! Go Niners!! ▶

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Wild Thing

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Saturday, August 15

2pm-4:30pm

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Special Guest Host Stephan Edwards
Mr. San Francisco Leather 1998

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PARTING GLANCES

Jeff w/Cross Powerhouse 6/19
You were your Australian friend. I had to leave. I was having a great time. I'd love to finish our conversation. Let's get together. Please call. ☎ 3001

Muni Underground Sat 6/20 2pm
Me: WM with white shirt and jeans, got on at Church. You: WM-tall with cap, holding Rent Tech book, bracelet. Enjoyed exchanging glances until you got off @ Powell. ☎ 3001

James @ Powerhouse Sat 6-20
We talked at length until my ride left. I regretted not getting your phone number. Want to meet again. Call Neil. ☎ 3002

Mr. Tickle
Brave combo 6/18. You wore a Mr. Tickle T-shirt & had a great smile. Me: near the door, long hair in a braid, glasses, moustache. Let's meet. ☎ 3003

Eric's @ Kitchen Sun 6-21 8pm
U-window table with friend. Me: Blue & white shirt with friend would be great to meet... ☎ 3004

Fred - All American Boy
Hey, where did you go? It was hard enough when you left before... I miss having coffee with you. Please call. ☎ 3005

Muscle systems Lockerroom 6/18
We recognized each other from first filtration a year ago. You're a handsome goatee and hairy actor from the Midwest (Ohio?) Let's talk. ☎ 3006

Mike @ B. Buddies 6/5/98
You're hot in blue coveralls in patio stall. I told you I was Robert of Palo Alto. I want to reconnect with you. You say you're Filipino? ☎ 3100

Arun, Sun Morning, Universe
Can't seem to forget you're sparkle, nor your sensuality. I have a date soon. Please call! Kiss* Mark. ☎ 3101

Horny Goblin
Sign your name in the window. Hairy ogre would like to feed you... ☎ 3102

Daniel Gay Pride Day
We talked at End-Up... You just got back from Spain. We agreed to meet at Mass (1015) We misconnected. Would like to hang out James. ☎ 3103

Manifest So Co
Harmont next day. You S&P goatee. Me S&P stache. We said Hello. Want to talk? ☎ 3104

Gay Day Parade
You: Handsome WM, tall, blonde crew-cut, built, leaning on barricades. Me: In cop car in parade. You waved expressed interest. I called back "promises, promises" wish I'd gotten to talk. ☎ 3200

Cute Longhaired guy Cala 7/2
You were going camping for the long weekend. I was the longhaired guy in front of you. I'm not as bold as my friend, but I'd enjoy meeting again. ☎ 3201

Phil, dancing country western
With you was great! I wish we could do it again soon, but how to reach you? I hope your dance card isn't filled! Anthony. ☎ 3202

Steve of Nee Valley VIA TN VIA
UK parents. Gay Day at Biardians. We were attracted but unable to verbalize effectively. Now that we are sober, let's talk! ☎ 3203

Mike, Safeways Market St.
Hey Mike! You Cartah wears dark hair and moustache. Me: Carhart trousers, moustache. We met back in mid May would still love to hear from you. B. ☎ 3204

Jason at Pride
Me: beard, dark green plaid shirt. Told you that the SFPD shirt looked good on you. Got nervous and left when your friend returned. Would love to see you again without either of them. ☎ 3205

Mission/24th BART
Mark - Met on 24th day of Pride Parade. Did not get your number. Very interested in meeting again. Paul. ☎ 3300

Michael 7/6 Appointment missed.
Crossed signals, thought you were someone else. You were the one. Try again? David. ☎ 3301

John from Pleasanton
We met early morning, July 4th, in Hayward lot. You were tired, I was cold. I would give anything to see your smile again. Please call me Sam. ☎ 3302

Teus?/14approx10am H'wood Laundry
You: Dark skin, hair, glasses wearing blue Adidas pants & white T-shirt. Me: Blonde caucasian, glasses wearing T-shirts and jeans. Traded looks, waved goodbye. Should have said more. ☎ 3407

Asian w/furry legs @ Safeway 7/22
You-shorts, great legs, glasses wifriend. Me blist bearish in jeans/white t-shirt, behind you at checkout @ 7:25pm. We smiled, you said hi, and left in black convertible. Let's talk more! ☎ 3506

Chris of Glenn Park
U came to my basement mass rm for BJ early this year, return visit? Please call Jack. ☎ 3303

Rory
It's a rare chance when special people meet. It was great being with you. I'll always remember. When will I see you again? Troy. ☎ 3328

Kevin from Hong Kong
Met on N Judah 6/20. You: beautiful smile and very sweet. Me: tall, blonde and very interested. Want to have fun? ☎ 3400

Sunday July 19 @ Baker beach
You were in a lawn chair, I invited you to throw the football. Your name is Will. Please call me. ☎ 3401

Don 7/02 @ the Powerhouse
We couldn't get a cab and I forgot to give you my number. Give me a call. Kevin. ☎ 3402

24 Divisadero Wed. July 15 Sat
Sat across from you. Both of us are bearded, I was wearing olive green suit. Wish I had time to give you my phone number. ☎ 3403

Mike - Architect, Sun 7/12 10am
St. St. Muni. You were going to swim. Me to church. You were reading a novel. I want to know how the plot thickens. Loved your smile. Call me - Bobby. ☎ 3404

Royal exchange Tue 7/14 12:30pm
You: brown and white shirt with friend, waiting for bus. Me: brown leather jacket, S/P hair, leaving with friend. We exchanged smiles - more than once. You're so handsome! Let's connect! ☎ 3405

7/15 early am BART Civic ctr.
5:30 am you in train looking out at me. We've played twice @ Mack. Me: Kangaroo hat, short Latin, you: tall blonde goatee, you intrigue me... ☎ 3406

Muni underground 6pm 7/14
You: shaved head got on embacadero, I was sitting next to you reading a book. You got off at Van Ness. Please call. ☎ 3500

Donatello...
Where are you buddy? My butt is hungry for your dick & my dick for yours too! The curious SOFA. Meet me @ our rendezvous. ☎ 3501

Randy from Daly City Fri 7/18
Met you at the 24th for fitness on Post St. Asked your nationality (Chinese). Talked about your job (paint dept), writing, etc. Want to talk again. Please call. ☎ 3019

Marc from Marin-Blind hairy...
I met you at Cafe Fiore, Sun, evening 7/19. I'd just come from the gym. Your number was wrong. Mistake?? Rude. ☎ 3503

Joey @ Folsom Gulch Sun 7/19
You thought my name was Darren. Your sensuous lips & piercing eyes won't let me forget our hot & sweaty hour. How bout encore? ☎ 3504

Dore Alay fair
You: Green hat, white tank top, purple converse. Me: I told you: "You're the cutest man at the Fair". Would like to meet and compare... ☎ 3505

*****Chris @ Pleasuredome 8/2*****
Me: Desert storm ah ya, Lewis, 5'8", no shirt, shrank my groove though. I had the pleasure of introducing myself to you in the restroom. You're a real physique. You need a hot ass. I told you I wanted God! I long to worship you, savoring every inch of your fucking Godlike hot, hot body. Unfortunately you were with someone... My tight bubble butt gripping your big fat beautiful man-tool as it slides in-n-out of me = Heaven. If there is one thing you must do, it is pick up the phone and call my box #. I promise you, I will meet you!!!! Thank you for the tease/lease (hot)! I'm still drooling. More please.... Clifford. ☎ 3555

Aggressive Asian Men

GWM 38 in E. Bay seeks?
Male 18-35, for my first MtoM relationship. I'm 5'10", 180, U should be 18-35 clean shaven nice attitude, no drugs prefer E. Bay. ☎ 3112

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Intelligent eye candy like man

Positive romance

Aggressive Asian Men

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Aggressive Asian Men

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Intelligent eye candy like man

Plague years

by Deborah Peifer

A Fragile Circle by Mark Senak; Alyson, \$13.95

Someday our plague is going to be ancient history, something that future generations of queers will talk about with hushed sadness and gratitude for its being over. The stories of the plague years will serve to remind those generations of both the horror of those years and the courageous way that our people banded together to fight against the illness and for ourselves. So many of the early pioneers have died that it becomes more and more urgent that we collect the stories of those years. Mark Senak's history of the first decades of the plague is a powerful and personal tale of a reluctant, fearful and finally triumphant warrior. Tracing the epidemic from its earliest days to the present, he offers his own story as cautionary tale, while he celebrates the people who fought in the first dark days.

I can remember the first time I heard about what would someday be called AIDS. I was waiting for a bus in Chicago, and a friend told me he'd read in *The New York Times* about a cancer that only occurred in gay men. I responded, "That's ridiculous. How does cancer know if you're gay?" We both agreed there was nothing to worry about, and changed the subject. This was in 1981 — we had a lot to learn.

Early in *A Fragile Circle*, Senak offers a similar tale, about another 1981 *Times* article. He and a lover are reading about a gruesome disease called GRID (for gay-related immune deficiency). Just hearing about the disease terrifies Senak, but his lover is blasé: "In a few years, it'll be like the clap. You'll get a shot, and that'll be the end of it." He looked smug and comfortable, as if to say, 'Our science can beat up your germ.'

Senak does a fine job, in his chronologically ordered tale, of recapturing what it was like in the early years, when there was no test, no clue about transmission, and nothing to do except

worry that every cough, every bit of sweat, every minuscule anomaly was the beginning of a horrible end. He recalls a panic attack after a deathbed will-signing (Senak is a lawyer, and his first AIDS work was providing legal services) in 1984. Certain that infection is inevitable, he realizes his greatest fear: "I was afraid there would be no one left to care for me." Such was the terror of the early days.

A Fragile Circle is not all darkness, because it is also the extraordinary story of some queers and others who looked at the face of hell and said we will not give in. Senak's comment on the anger of many activists about the refusal of the Reagan government to do anything captures perfectly the attitude in those days: "We were a community incredulous that we were actually being treated as badly as we thought we were going to be." Out of such incredulity was ACT UP born.

For those of us old enough to remember it all, Senak offers an insider's view of the forming of the great AIDS service organizations. Those of you too young to remember will, I think, be heartened by the ways our people refused just to lie down and die. Senak also shares his own story, his own fears, his own decision to let an HIV-positive man because he refuses to let the virus decide whom he will love. The story of his two years with Joseph is heart-rending and absolutely life-affirming.

A Fragile Circle is one man's remembrance, but it speaks volumes about all of us. I wish the righteous wrong could hear this story, hear about people who responded to a great tragedy by caring for one another. I wish Trent Lott (who has never gotten over hearing the chant: "Trent Lott is full of snot") could hear this story and understand that the pathological people he thinks we are could not have pulled together to care for each other in so loving a way. Mostly I hope that young queers will read this book, and see that they and we come from a people worthy of honor and pride. Someday this will be ancient history — I know it. ▼

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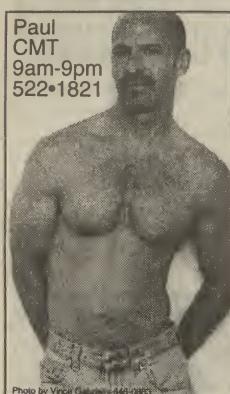
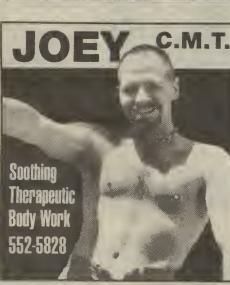
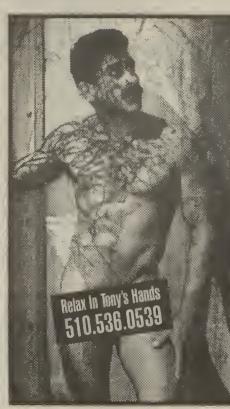


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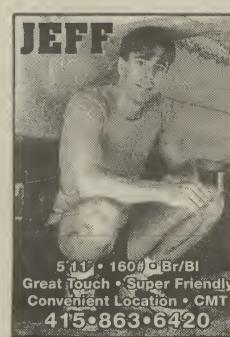
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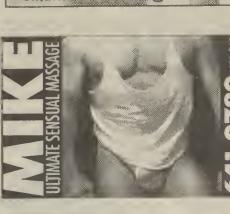
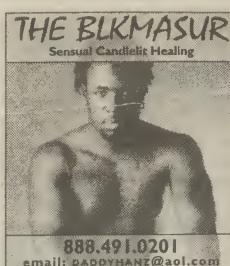
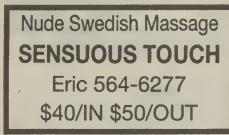
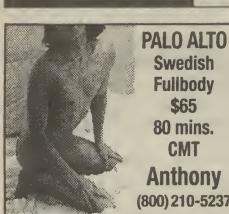
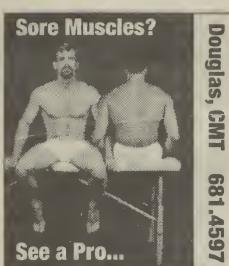
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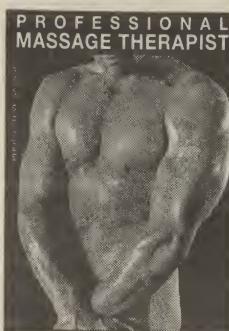
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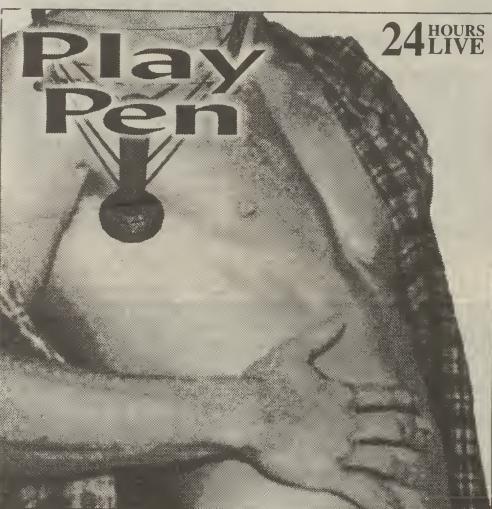
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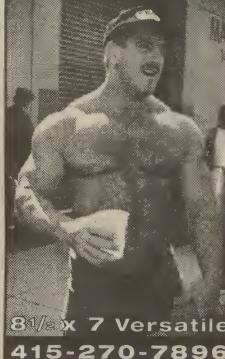
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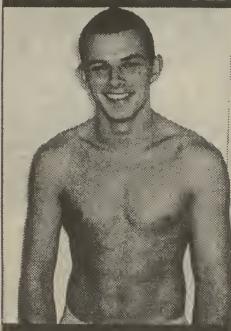
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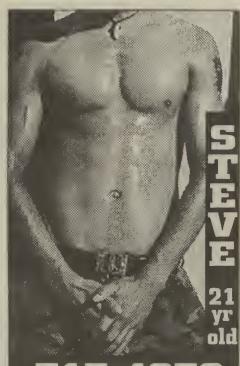
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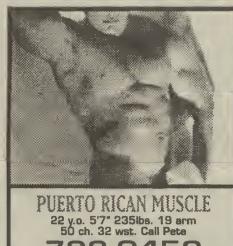
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Brown hair,
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